MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

26 JULY 1982

Lebanon

Military Situation -- The Israeli Air Force attacked and destroyed Syrian SAM-8 batteries in the Al-Biqa' Valley on 24 July and also raided "terrorist" targets in the Beirut area on 23, 24 and 25 July, according to announcements by the IDF spokesman reported by IDF radio. However, after the destruction of their SAM-8 batteries near Barr Ilyas, the Syrians shot down an Israeli Phantom with a SAM-6 fired from within Syria, Jerusalem television reported. While noting Israel's "sigh of relief" over the air force's success in knocking out without losses the hitherto unknown SAM-8's, which may have been operated by Soviet personnel, the television said Israel "takes a very grave view of the downing of an Israeli plane by a missile fired from inside Syria.

A Syrian military spokesman announced on 24 July that if Israel continues to violate the cease-fire, Syria will reply with "unexpected blows and all kinds of weapons, inflicting heavier losses than the Israelis expect," Damascus radio reported. At the appropriate place and time, Syria may employ "weapons it has not yet used, some of which may be unknown to the Israelis," a Syrian staff officer announced in a statement reported by the radio.

Responding to the Syrian warnings, senior IDF officers said that if the Syrians act on their threat to cause heavy Israeli losses, Israel's counterstike will be several times sharper and more painful, MA'ARIV reported. If the Syrians use Scud surface-to-surface missiles against civilian population centers, the IDF will react vigorously against Syrian centers near the border, including Damascus. Noting a Damascus radio commentary's assertion that Syria will not protect the Israeli invaders from the Palestinian Revolution in southern Lebanon, MA'ARIV said the Syrians appear to have rejected demands to stop the "terrorists" initiating actions against the IDF from Syrian-controlled territory. Meanwhile, Israeli Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon told the Knesset Defense and Foreign Affairs Committee that Israel has no intention of fighting against Syria and has no plans to hit Damascus, IDF radio reported. After assessing recent Syrian announcements, Israeli Government circles do not think the Syrians are seeking to escalate the conflict, the radio also noted. Earlier, Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas was wounded in the 22 July fighting in the Al-Biqa' Valley.

In Beirut, the Palestinian-Lebanese joint forces military spokesman announced that Israeli bombing and shelling caused 56 casualties on 23 July and 51 on 24 July, according to statements carried by the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio. Israeli artillery resumed its bombardment of Beirut early on 26 July. Joint forces statements carried by the radio also claimed that an Israeli plane was hit over Beirut on 24 July and that a PLO group operating behind Israeli lines attacked the IDF command headequarters in Sidon the previous day, inflicting heavy losses.

Asserting that a new phase has begun in the siege of Beirut, a senior Israeli "political element" said the IDF will henceforth provide full air cover for the soldiers besieging the city, Jerusalem television noted.

Meanwhile, the Israelis cut the electricity supply to west Beirut late on 24 July but restored it the next morning, according to Beirut radio reports.

'Arafat Document, PLO Stand -- PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat signed a document approving "all United Nations resolutions concerning the Palestinian question," AFP reported on 25 July. Informed sources in Beirut pointed out that the document made no specific mention of any UN resolution, AFP noted. Beirut radio said that by declaring his approval of all UN resolutions, 'Arafat has apparently implied his acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338, which recognize Israel's right to exist. However, the PLO's UN representative

revealed in New York that 'Arafat told him by telephone that the document does not include recognition of Resolutions 242 and 338 but does recognize Resolution 181, passed in 1947, which provided for the establishment of two separate states in Palestine, one Arab and one Jewish, Monte Carlo radio reported. On the other hand, U.S. Congressman Paul McCloskey, who drafted the document, said 'Arafat confirmed his approval of 242 and 338 by writing their numbers on the reverse side of the paper, according to Beirut radio.

Israeli Government sources described 'Arafat's declaration as "nothing but a propaganda ploy" by the "terrorist" organization, according to Jerusalem television. In a telephone interview with Paris radio, Israel's ambassador to France reaffirmed his country's refusal to negotiate with the PLO.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the signing of the document is a "major and important development" that calls for an Israeli response, MENA reported. Israel should recognize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, he said, and should immediately cease military operations in Lebanon.

The Voice of Palestine did not mention the document in its reportage of 'Arafat's meeting with the U.S. congressional delegation. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said the matter should be referred to the Palestine National Council and that no other decision is of consequence, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Prior to 'Arafat's meeting with the U.S. congressmen, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said the PLO had offered the maximum possible concessions; more would be treason or capitulation, the Voice of Palestine reported. Noting that the PLO is now being asked to recognize Israel, "which is slaughtering our people," Khalaf said this is not the time to discuss any compromises over the Palestinian cause. Nevertheless, 'Arafat's political adviser Hani al-Hasan said in a MONDAY MORNING interview reported by Beirut radio that the PLO fighters are ready to leave Lebanon if this would lead to the IDF's withdrawal from Lebanon. Some sources have disclosed that if U.S. envoy Philip Habib achieves progress during his tour of Arab capitals, Palestinian withdrawals from Beirut could begin before 10 August and PLO, Syrian and Israeli withdrawals from all Lebanon could be completed in 3 months, the radio reported earlier.

In Cairo, PLO Executive Committee member Ahmad Sudqi ad-Dajani held talks with Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali on 24 July, according to MENA. Afterward, Ad-Dajani told newsmen the PLO does not object to the French-Egyptian plan that Ghali had outlined to him and appreciates its linking the Beirut problem with the overall issue. He affirmed that the PLO will leave Lebanon only if it can go to Palestine.

Israel on Negotiations -- Israel will not agree to interim arrangements in Lebanon and the IDF will not withdraw from the territories it has occupied until the PLO and Syrians leave Lebanon and a stable government is established, a senior Israeli "political element" said in a statement reported by Jerusalem television. Noting that Israeli Prime Minister Menahem Begin will receive U.S. envoy Habib in Israel on 26 July, the television also said Israel is prepared to grant Habib more time for political negotiations provided this time is indeed dedicated to diplomacy and is not used by the Syrians and the "terrorists" for a war of attrition. However, Israel does not regard IDF reactions to "terrorist" fire as harmful to the negotiations, IDF radio said.

Habib Mission -- U.S. envoy Habib was received in Damascus on 23 July by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, who reiterated Syria's "declared principled stand," Damascus radio reported. After a stop in Saudi Arabia for talks with the Saudi king and foreign minister, Habib arrived in Cairo where he met first with Foreign Minister 'Ali and subsequently with President Husni Mubarak, according to MENA reports. The Egyptian side told Habib that a solution to the Lebanese crisis must be linked to a comprehensive solution of the Palestinian problem, 'Ali said in a statement reported by MENA. According to related MENA

reports, a responsible Egyptian source denied that Habib's mission in Cairo was related to Egypt's accepting a number of Palestinians, and AL-AHRAM welcomed the U.S. decision to broaden the framework of the mission to include several Arab capitals and follow "marginal problems" to their basic roots.

Lebanese Stance, Presidency -- Denouncing the resumption of Israeli air raids as "pressure and blackmail" aimed at disrupting Philip Habib's task, Lebanese Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan warned that their continuation "will further complicate matters," Beirut radio reported. Lebanon will protest the renewed airstrikes in the UN Security Council, the radio noted. In earlier remarks reported hy the radio, al-Wazzan reiterated his call for the withdrawal of PLO fighters from Lebanon.

Meanwhile, Lebanese Front Military Commander Bashir al-Jumayyil announced his candidacy for the Lebanese Presidency, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. A strong Lebanon requires the withdrawal of all armed aliens and understanding among the Lebanese based on justice and equality, Al-Jumayyil asserted. He also said the Phalangist Lebanese forces will be ready to merge with the Lebanese Army if and when the latter becomes the sole legitimate force in Lebanon, the radio reported.

Libyan Message -- Col Mu'Ammar al-Qadhdhafi, in a letter to Lebanese political leaders, carried by JANA, claimed that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon is a "war of vengeance" against the Lebanese people and not the Palestinians. He warned that what is being planned is the expulsion of the Lebanese from their country so they can be replaced by Jews, and in this way the Palestinian Resistance will no longer have any support. He said Lebanon should ask for international help.

PLO Threat, Accusation -- In the aftermath of the "betrayal" of the Palestinians by the Arab countries, the Middle East may soon be rocked by a new wave of terrorism "more serious and more to the heart of the Arab countries," the PLO's representative in India announced in statements reported by AFP. The PLO will also strike at the United States and Israel, he warned. Earlier, in a Monte Carlo radio interview, the director of the PLO's Paris office accused Israel of assassinating his assistant on 23 July. However, an Israeli Embassy official denied the charge, according to AFP. The Palestinian official was killed when a bomb exploded in his car, Paris radio noted.

Israel

Tehiya Joins Coalition -- The Tehiya party has joined the government coalition under an agreement which stipulates, among other things, that a new committee will be formed on the legal status of West Bank Jewish inhabitants and that seven new settlements will be established there next year, Jerusalem radio reported.

Rabin on Lebanon -- Israel should decide how to get out of the Beirut "mess" and stop clinging to the idea that it is possible to impose a new order in Lebanon, MK Yitzhaq Rabin said in an interview with Jerusalem television. He said the IDF's achievements do not make far-reaching political objectives possible, and the most important issue now is to remove the "terrorists" from Beirut to Tripoli or other areas.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Situation -- An Iranian military communique carried by Tehran radio reported that an offensive was launched against Iraqi positions near Basra on 23-24 July, smashing Iraqi defensive lines and killing or wounding 700 enemy soldiers. Iraqi Armed Forces communiques carried by Baghdad radio claimed the attack failed completely and 3,654 Iranians were killed. Despite Iraq's claims that it has withdrawn its forces from Iran, IRNA said the Iraqis are still positioned in Ilam and Bakhtaran Provinces.

Khomeyni Warning -- Addressing officials from Khorasan Province in a speech carried by Tehran radio on 25 July, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni warned countries which assist Iraq that they will be considered "traitors to Islam" and will be dealt with according to the "orders of Islam." He said however that it is not too late for countries in the region to realize their error and stop being "slaves" of the United States or the USSR. Khomeyni asserted that Iran is the most powerful country in the region but it has no intention of fighting any of its neighbors. Iran has no right to any other country and will not interfere with any other country unless it is in self-defense. He said it is unfortunate that the Gulf countries have material power in oil, but lack spiritual power.

Algerian Role -- Reliable sources reported that Algeria is willing to be the "honest broker" in efforts to end the war, AFP said. Meanwhile, Tehran radio's Arabic service reported that the Iranian president received a message from his Algerian counterpart.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince's Visit to Iraq, Syria -- Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz visited Iraq and Syria over the weekend, according to INA and Damascus radio. INA said the prince's talks with President Saddam Husayn focused on the Iran-Iraq war, Lebanon and ways to strengthen Saudi-Iraqi relations. The talks with Syrian President al-Asad covered Lebanon and the Middle East, according to Damascus radio. Prince 'Abdallah denied that the aim of his visits was to mediate between Iraq and Syria, SPA noted.

Fahd 'Id al-Fitr Speech -- The Islamic nation needs a military force to strike terror in the hearts of its enemies and protect its friends, King Fahd said in a 23 July speech transmitted by SPA to mark the holiday 'Id al-Fitr. Expressing hope that inter-Arab quarrels will disappear and that Egypt will soon rejoin its Arab brothers, Fahd said Israel would never have "gone on the rampage" in Lebanon if the Islamic nation had been united. He appealed to Iran and Iraq to end their war and resolve their differences. Regarding Saudi Arabia's internal affairs, the king said the codification of Saudi constitutional principles is a priority issue, as is the strengthening of the Saudi Armed Forces. The king called on young men not to imitate the "lost youth" of the West and to avoid extremism.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

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'ARAFAT EXPLAINS INVASION TO U.S. DELEGATION

NC260622 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0550 GMT 26 Jul 82

[Text] Last night Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] met with the U.S. congressional factfinding delegation in Lebanon. He explained to the delegation the dimensions and aims of the Zionist invasion, the siege imposed on Beirut and the continuous Israeli violation of the cease-fire. He pointed out that the continuous bombardment of Beirut from land, sea and air is directed at innocent Lebanese and Palestinian civilians -- old people, women, and children. The enemy concentrates his savage bombardment on residential quarters, destroying many residential buildings, and completely destroying the Palestinian camps and the popular Lebanese and Palestinian quarters.

In his address to the U.S. delegation, the brother commander in chief also referred to the Zionist invasion forces' use of various U.S.-made weapons and internationally banned bombs, such as cluster and fragmentation bombs, which caused thousands of civilian casualties and started fires in many west Beirut areas as proof of the Zionist savageness. This is in addition to cutting off the supply of water and electricity and preventing consumer and medical supplies from entering the national sector of Beirut, which is patiently standing fast in the face of this barbaric invasion. The enemy's barbaric and inhumane actions against the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples will only increase their determination to continue standing fast in the face of this ugly aggression.

'ARAFAT SIGNS DOCUMENT ON PALESTINIAN QUESTION

Acknowledges UN Resolution 242

NC251911 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] An urgent AFP dispatch from Washington tonight says PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has signed a document acknowledging UN Resolution 242. Paul McCloskey, a member of the U.S. congressional factfinding committee who is now visiting Beirut as a member of the U.S. Senate delegation, announced the news on the U.S. CBS television network.

The Palestinian Resistance Command has not yet made any comments confirming or denying this report.

PLO Spokesman Declines Comment

NC252031 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has announced his recognition of UN Resolutions 242 and 338, which recognize Israel's right to exist. The U.S. television network CBS announced this, and the other U.S. television networks quoted CBS, which said 'Arafat has signed a document confirming his recognition of the two resolutions.

Paul McCloskey, a member of the U.S. congressional factfinding committee now visiting Beirut, announced the news at a press conference in Beirut he held with Yasir 'Arafat next to him. 'Arafat confirmed that the PLO now recognizes Israel's right to exist, according to the U.S. CBS network.

AFP tonight said that PLO official spokesman Mahmud al-Labadi has declined to comment on this issue. In turn, Larry Speakes, the official White House spokesman, has not yet commented on this step.

Paul McCloskey, who announced the news, as we have pointed out, said he will go immediately to Washington to meet with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and ask him to initiate a dialogue with the PLO.

We recall here that to recognize the PLO, the United States has stipulated that the PLO should recognize Resolutions 242 and 338, which recognize Israel's right to exist.

Palestinian Command Silent

NC252024 Cairo MENA in English 2008 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Beirut, July 25 (MENA) -- The Palestinian Resistance Command gave no comment on what was released earlier namely that PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has signed a document that recognizes the UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 namely the right of Israel to exist.

The American television network C.B.S. has affirmed that 'Arafat has signed the document and the U.S. Representative McCloskey announced 'Arafat's signature in a press conference he had tonight in Beirut.

The U.S. representative is on a current visit to (?Lebanon) accompanied by a group of the American parliamentarians.

AFP Contrasts Reports

NC252041 Paris AFP in English 2022 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Beirut, July 25 (AFP) -- Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasir 'Arafat today signed a document approving "all the United Nations resolutions" concerning Palestine, informed sources said here. But despite a report from the U.S. television network CBS that the document contained references to U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for recognition of all states in the Middle East including Israel, the sources here said the document made no specific mention of any U.N. resolution.

In Jerusalem, an authoritative Israeli Government source blasted the reports as "one more propaganda maneuver among the numerous PLO tactics designed for deceiving world opinion." The source, quoted on Israeli television, said that Mr 'Arafat had at no time mentioned Israel. This statement contrasted sharply with the CBS report, which said that Mr 'Arafat, standing beside U.S. Congressman Paul McCloskey at a Beirut press conference, had stated that the PLO "now recognizes the right to exist of the State of Israel."

Both the State Department and White House in Washington and the PLO official spokesman here declined to comment immediately on the reports.

The contradictory reports followed shortly after the release of a message from Mr 'Arafat to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba today reaffirming the PLO's determination to struggle for the establishment of a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, "whatever the price." If Mr 'Arafat did indeed recognize Israel's right to existence, the move could have profound consequences which would dramatically alter the Middle East political chessboard.

The United States and Western Europe have consistently linked recognition of the PLO with Palestinian acceptance of the right of Israel to exist. Observers here saw as significant the fact that Mr 'Arafat handed the document to a U.S. congressional delegation accompanying Mr McCloskey, as well as the fact that a close adviser to the PLO chief, Khalid al-Hasan, is currently in the United States.

According to CBS, Mr McCloskey announced that he planned to return at once to the United States to urge Secretary of State George Shultz to immediately open negotiations with the PLO.

Observers here expected that the Palestinian National Council, the organization's "parliament", would be convened rapidly to definitively approve the decision.

One Sentence Text

NC252219 Paris AFP in English 2211 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Beirut, July 25 (AFP) -- A U.S. congressman said here tonight that Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) chief Yasir 'Arafat had "signed a document recognizing all U.N. resolutions related to the Palestinian question."

Representative Paul McCloskey told journalists after he and five congressional colleagues met Mr 'Arafat in West Beirut that the document concerned all United Nations resolutions, "including 242 and 338."

"Those resolutions include the right for Israel to exist," Mr McCloskey said.

Observers here said Resolutions 242 and 338 are particularly significant because under terms of an accord concluded by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger while he headed Middle East negotiations, Washington promised not to recognize or have contact with the PLO as long as it did not accept Israel's right to exist. Resolution 242 recognizes this right.

According to reports here, the document Mr 'Arafat signed was handwritten by Mr McCloskey, a California Republican. It consisted of one sentence: "President 'Arafat accepts all United Nations resolutions concerning the Palestinian question." It was signed "Y. 'Arafat" and dated July 25, 1982.

Accepts All UN Resolutions

NC260730 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 26 Jul 82

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat yesterday signed a document recognizing all UN resolutions. By doing so, 'Arafat has turned upside down the course of the Lebanese crisis and the criteria of the Middle East conflict for many years.

This report was confirmed by the U.S. television network CBS, which in turn was quoted by all U.S. television networks.

This is now the news of 'Arafat's recognition of UN resolutions was announced: Last night a U.S. delegation met with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat in one of 'Arafat's offices. The meeting was characterized by an important political event which could have repercussions on the situation in the whole area -- namely, the signing by 'Arafat of a document which says: Chairman 'Arafat approves of all the UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian issue.

The signing by 'Arafat of the document in black ink and dating it 25 July 1982 was announced by Paul McCloskey, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, who is a member of a delegation of five U.S. House of Representatives members led by Representative Nick Rahall, who originally hails from Lebanon.

McCloskey, who presented the document to a group of journalists upon his return to east Beirut from west Beirut, said the document means that 'Arafat has accepted Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, revealing that he ['Arafat] recorded on the other side of the document: Resolutions 242, 338, 508 and 509. He confirmed that his approval involves these resolutions.

ASSOCIATED PRESS, whose correspondents have covered the U.S. delegation's visit, has quoted McCloskey as having said: 'Arafat has signed a document for us accepting all UN resolutions pertaining to Israel's right to exist. I plan to go to Washington and hope that my colleagues will join me in recommending that Secretary of State George Shultz begin negotiations with the PLO.

While seeing off the members of the delegation, 'Arafat was content with saying: Yes, all the resolutions related to the Palestinians.

Upon the return of the U.S. delegation to east Beirut, the head of the delegation said in a telephone conversation with UPI that 'Arafat has approved of all UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian issue, but he refused to frankly recognize Israel's right to exist. Referring to Resolution 242, he said that he ['Arafat] does not accept this resolution alone but accepts it together with the other resolutions related to the Palestinian issue. He emphasized the crisis of refusing to recognize the Jewish state unilaterally, adding that he wants this to be within the framework of the other UN resolutions which recognize the right of Israel and the Palestinians to exist. He wants a simultaneous recognition. He said he had asked for a frank, clear and direct recognition from 'Arafat. He was asked: Does the document constitute a coup? He answered: No. I believe that he said so before but not so frankly, since he had approved of the Saudi peace plan which recognized Israel's right to exist.

Rahall said he had asked the PLO chairman whether the document he signed contained Resolution 242. He replied: Yes.

At-Tarazi Statement

JN260730 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0700 GMT 26 Jul 82

[Text] The PLO representative to the United Nations, Zuhdi at-Tarazi, made a statement in New York this morning commenting on the document signed in west Beirut yesterday by the leader of the PLO in which he recognizes all UN resolutions relating to the Palestine question. At-Tarazi said Yasir 'Arafat told him by telephone that the document does not include recognition of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. However, it includes recognition of UN Resolution 181, which was passed in 1947 providing for the establishment of two separate states in Palestine, one Arab and one Jewish.

VOP Coverage

NC261123 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1105 GMT 26 Jul 82

[Excerpts] Chairman 'Arafat last night met with the U.S. congressional factfinding mission to Beirut and Lebanon. He explained to the delegation the broad dimensions and aims of the Israel invasion of Lebanon and the siege imposed on the city of Beirut.

According to press reports, Chairman 'Arafat also stressed to the delegation that the PLO abides by all UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian cause. This declaration has provoked extensive media coverage as various interpretations were made of this stand.

PLO ENVOY TO INDIA ON 'NEW WAVE OF TERRORISM'

BK240641 Hong Kong AFP in English 0556 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] New Delhi, July 24 (AFP) -- PLO Ambassador to India Faisal 'Awaydah has said the Middle East may soon be rocked by a new wave of terrorism when Palestinians react to their "betrayal" by Arab countries who have not come to their aid against Israel, according to press reports here today.

"I can assure you this time the terror would be more serious and more to the heart of the Arab countries. But I will not call it terrorism. It will be revenge, pure and pure revenge," Mr. Awaydah told the UNI agency quoted in the press.

The Palestine Liberation Organization's first target would be the Arab regimes, and later others, including the United States and of course, Israel. "Relations with the Arab regimes would no more be the same brotherly attitude. It will be one of man to man and tit for tat," the ambassador said.

Mr. Awaydah said he believed the Arab nations actually would like to see his organization liquidated "because we stand for democracy, for equality and for social justice, and we are a threat to their thrones."

Dissension within the Arab world and the influence of the United States were also responsible for the Arabs not sending regular troops to the aid of Palestinians fighting in Lebanon.

He also denied Israeli reports that India was providing military training to the Palestinian guerrillas saying the PLO found it more advantageous to send its men to socialist countries. PLO officers, have however, undergone staff training in India, he said.

HANI AL-HASAN SEES SLIGHT CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY

NC251530 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, has stated that the Palestinian fighters are ready to leave Lebanon if this will lead to the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Lebanon.

In an interview with MONDAY MORNING magazine, which will be published tomorrow, Monday, Al-Hasan praises the government of U.S. President Reagan, saying there has been a slight change in U.S. policy toward the PLO. He expresses his satisfaction with the results of discussions the Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers held with U.S. President Reagan in Washington last week.

SALAH KHALAF: DISCUSSION OF COMPROMISES UNTIMELY

NC251221 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in English 1100 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad (Salah Khalaf) said yesterday that he expects more Israeli air raids on Beirut as long as Arab and international silence persists. He added that the escalation of Israeli raids is the result of Israeli irritation at the latest series of commando operations in occupied Lebanese territory. He said they were aimed at terrorizing the population and at forcing the Palestinian and Lebanese leaderships to surrender.

Speaking after a meeting with independent Nasirite leader Ibrahim Qulaylat, Abu Iyad stressed: We are not afraid of Israeli planes, tanks or guns. We do not wish to subject Beirut to the slightest damage. However, we are sure that Beirut would never accept that militants and Lebanese nationalists surrender to Israel.

He added: We have offered all we possibly can in terms of political concessions for the sake of the Lebanese people. Our conditions are clear and the basis of negotiations with the Lebanese state must be over Israeli presence and not Palestinian and Syrian presence.

Abu Iyad concluded: We will never be brought to our knees, and we will resist the occupation whatever the result. We have offered the maximum in concessions, more than which will be treason or capitulation. We are now being asked to recognize Israel, which is slaughtering our people in 'Ayn al-Hulwah, Sidon, Tyre and An-Nabatiyah. Abu Iyad said: I believe this is not the time to discuss any compromises over the Palestinian cause.

'ARAFAT CALLS FOR WORKERS TO ACT AGAINST U.S.

NC260747 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0545 GMT 26 Jul 82

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has called on Arab workers to compensate for the Arab inability to adopt punitive measures against the United States and its interests in the Arab homeland. In a message he sent yesterday to the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions, he said Arab workers are able to take punitive measures against the United States and its interests, which are spread all over the Arab homeland, and to take punitive measures against the Arab forces, which are doing nothing and colluding with the enemy.

'ARAFAT LAUDS BREZHNEV REMARKS ON MIDDLE EAST

NC251908 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1745 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Brother Commander Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has again welcomed the statements of Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev on developments in Lebanon and on the Palestinian cause.

Answering a question by the (?post press) news agency, he said: The PLO has perused the Soviet leader's statements. The PLO highly prizes the unswerving Soviet stances on the Palestinian people's just struggle. It expresses its gratification with President Brezhnev's proposals, particularly those dealing with the convening of an international conference, which the PLO regards as the proper framework for the resolution of the Middle East crisis. We also emphasize our welcoming of his proposals on disengagement.

Brother Abu 'Ammar added: We give our warmest comradely greetings to the feelings expressed by President Brezhnev for the Palestinian people's steadfastness and courage. From this position, we are fighting to defend our people's right to live and also the values of righteousness, justness and peace.

GDR TELEVISION INTERVIEWS YASIR 'ARAFAT

DW261007 East Berlin Domestic Television Service in German 1730 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by GDR television correspondent Karl-Heinz Schneider in west Beirut, in Arabic with superimposed German translation -- date not given -- recorded]

[Text] ['Arafat] The results of the war include the fact that 14 Palestinian camps, 32 Lebanese villages and 3 Lebanese towns, namely Sidon, Tyre and An-Nabatiyah, have been destroyed. Beirut is now besieged and is being attacked from the air, land and sea. There are 30,000 dead or wounded, tens of thousands of missing and a million refugees -- both Palestinians and Lebanese. Military actions against Beirut are currently increasing. Three divisions, including two specialized units, surround the city.

[Question] Comrade 'Arafat, in our view the solution to the Palestinian problem on the basis of the right to self-determination and to found a sovereign state continues to be the main issue regarding the settlement of the Middle East conflict. How do you view this problem under the present circumstances?

[Answer] Our struggle has proved that the PLO cannot be ignored. It has also confirmed that the crux of the Middle East problem is the Palestinian problem. Without a just solution to the Palestinian problem, including the right to return, the right to self-determination and the right to found an independent Palestinian state -- and I am demanding nothing impossible here; I am demanding the fulfillment of the UN decisions -- there can be no peace, no stability and no solution, certainly not through the Israeli army or American troops.

[Question] Comrade 'Arafat, in recent days you have repeatedly visited units of the joint armed forces. How do you assess the fighters' morale?

[Answer] I have been with the fighters very often during the past days and weeks, and I can assure our friends and comrades in the GDR and the socialist community that the fighters of the Palestinian and Lebanese joint armed forces possess high combat morale. This morale remains unbroken to this day despite the use of the most modern American and Israeli weapons by the Israeli army. On behalf of all the fighters, on behalf of the steadfast Palestinian and Lebanese people -- there are currently 200,000 Palestinians and 600,000 Lebanese in besieged Beirut -- I want to thank our friends in the GDR for their principled and firm stand as well as for their support for the Palestinian people.

DFLP'S HAWATIMAH ON AIMS OF ISRAELI RAIDS

JN241953 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1908 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] told Monte Carlo radio this evening: We are awaiting new forms of hostile acts of aggression in Beirut. We we are facing an invasion of various aims, but we have no choice but to resist inch by inch and position by position. We will intensify our operations behind enemy lines.

Hawatimah said: These air raids will spread for obvious military and political reasons. The acts of aggression against the Syrian forces in Al-Biqa' will also spread. What is meant is to humiliate Beirut and force it to surrender and to impose a treaty of capitulation along the Camp David lines. We say the Camp David agreements will not pass, the autonomy will not pass and their attempts to annihilate our people, the Palestinian Resistance and the Lebanese nationalist forces will not pass. The attempts to force Syria to succumb will not succeed through striking at its forces which fight at our side in Beirut and Al-Biqa'.

Hawatimah also said: The Israeli invasion has many aims. The Zionist expansionist aim is to reach Az-Zahrani. The U.S., local and Arab aims go beyond Az-Zahrani. However, the invaders will learn that their blitzkriegs are over and that they are now fighting a new kind of war in the Middle East, a prolonged war that is not affected by blitzkriegs.

DFLP SPOKESMAN: OPERATIONS AGAINST ISRAEL TO CONTINUE

JN231927 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] A spokesman of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP] announced a short while ago that today's Israeli raids against residential sectors in west Beirut resulted in killing and injuring dozens of civilians. He said Israel's savage raids included raids on the Al-Biqa' area that were aimed at civilans also. He called on the United Nations, international and regional organizations and international public opinion to play an effective role to stop the aggression. He asserted that the joint forces, the Syrian forces and the Amal movement would remain steadfast in Beirut and Al-Biqa' and would continue their operations behind Israeli lines.

PLO OFFICIAL DENIES RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

LD261158 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 26 Jul 82

[From the news headlines]

[Excerpt] Salah az-Zawawi, Palestinian ambassador, in Tehran in an interview given to an IRNA correspondent, said: What 'Arafat told [U.S. Congressman] McCloskey concerns the PLO's concurrence with the UN resolutions about Palestine. It has abolutely nothing to do with official recognition of the Zionist regime or its existence. He added: These resolutions have already been approved by the Palestine National Council.

KLIBI ASSURES SARKIS OF ARAB LEAGUE EFFORTS

NC232234 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] It has been reported at the Arab League that Secretary General Chedli Klibi sent a message to President Ilyas Sarkis yesterday assuring him that the Arab League is sparing no efforts on the Arab and international diplomatic levels to realize the withdrawal of the Israeli aggressor from all of Lebanon.

In his message, which he sent on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, Klibi points out that the Arab League's efforts stem from its conviction that the evacuation of the Zionist forces from Lebanon, the restoration of Lebanon's sovereignty over all its territory and the serving of the welfare of all the Lebanese and Palestinians living in Lebanon are Arab responsibilities. The Arab League secretary general says the sacrifices Lebanon is making in the service of the Arab cause in general and the Palestinian cause in particular impose a responsibility and commitment on all Arab states.

PLO OFFICE CHIEF ACCUSES ISRAEL OF KILLING AIDE

JN231807 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Interview with Ibrahim as-Sus, director of the PLO office in Paris, by an unidentified Radio Monte Carlo correspondent in As-Sus' office in Paris on 23 July -- recorded]

[Question] Would you please review the circumstances surrounding the assassination of Fadl ad-Dani?

[Answer] My brother and colleague Fadl ad-Dani met his martydom while defending his cause and people in the difficult circumstances through which we are all living. He knew; he told me a week ago: We are threatened, Ibrahim. I told him: Why do we not request guards? He said: I am a struggler. I have taken enough precautions. There is no need to request French protection for me. He knew he was threatened. He knew he was a struggler for his cause and people, particularly at this juncture when the Palestinian people are beginning to realize victories over the fascist Israeli aggression and the Nazi regime of Begin. He knew we were threatened, that Israel aims at every Palestinian and at every free voice everywhere.

[Question] Therefore you accuse Israel of assassinating Fadl ad-Dani?

[Answer] Yes, we accuse Israel. This morning I conveyed this accusation to the French authorities. The French external affairs minister contacted me to express his deep feelings. We have received numerous cables from French ministers, officials and parties. None of them hesitated to say this assassination was the work of a foreign intelligence apparatus, namely, that of Israel.

[Question] What about preliminary investigation?

[Answer] The French authorities and police have promised to inform us of all the details of the investigations in order to have the complete file on the issue.

[Question] Could you give us information about Fadl ad-Dani? Who was he and what did he represent at the PLO Paris office?

[Answer] Fadl ad-Dani was a Palestinian youth born in Gaza, aged 32-33 years old. He was a struggling youth. He was in the general union of Palestinian students in France. I knew him in 1969. He joined the Fatah movement in 1966. He was a struggler in various places. He studied in Algiers where he joined the Fatah movement. He then joined the PLO Paris office. He had been deputy director of this office since 1978. Following the assassination of the late 'Izz ad-Din al-Qalaq, I took over as director and appointed Fadl ad-Dani as my assistant. He was responsible for information and relations with the press, parties and Franco-Palestinian and Franco-Arab friendship societies. He was very popular among the Arab, Palestinian and French strugglers. Undoubtedly, it has been a great loss for the office and the Palestinian Revolution.

CHEYSSON SENDS REGRETS ON PLO OFFICIAL'S DEATH

NC231639 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Excerpts] The Zionist intelligence service has committed a new crime against a representative of the PLO. It has assassinated struggler Fadl ad-Dani, the assistant director of the PLO office in Paris, by hurling a bomb into his car.

This cowardly crime has prompted strong reactions, particularly in France. External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson has sent a message to Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, condemning the cowardly act, whose victim was martyr Fadl ad-Dani. Cheysson asserts in his message that the French Government will not spare any efforts to find the culprits. He expresses his sorrow and regret over the assassination of the assistant director of the PLO office.

SAUDI ARABIA

SOURCE DENIES AL-ASAD SOUGHT 'MATERIAL SUPPORT'

LD241430 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1350 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] At-Ta'if, 24 Jul (SPA) -- Commenting on reports by certain news agencies that the recent visit to the kingdom by Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was for the purpose of obtaining material support for Syria, an official Saudi source said: We are astonished at such speculations, which are not based on reality or truth.

The source explained that the visit was within the framework of Arab efforts seeking to contain the crisis that has resulted from the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. As announced at the time, talks between His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad concentrated on the Palestinian issue and developments in the region; no material issues were discussed.

The source added that President al-Asad did not make any material demands in this respect. These reports, as we have already said, are just untrue speculations that are completely fabricated.

KING FAHD SPEAKS ON OCCASION OF 'ID AL-FITR

LD232250 Riyadh SPA in English 1955 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text of King Fahd's address to the nation on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, marking the end of Ramadan]

[Text] At-Ta'if, 23 Jul (SPA) -- Following is the full text of the king's address:

Praise be to Allah for binding our hearts with faith, for entrusting us with the enforcement of His law and promoting the fortunes of His religion, and for honouring us with the service of His house and the herald by whom Allah has honoured the Arabs, thereby making them the first to bear with him the banner of Al-Da'wah, [call for Islam], then the nation of Islam has likewise been honoured, becoming the best nation ever presented to mankind, calling for right and forbidding wrong and performing the prayers.

May Allah have mercy on King 'Abd al-'Aziz who unified the peninsula and strived hard to build the state of his ancestors, the state of monotheism, Islamic law, the traditionalist creed, the real symbol of Islam and its scientific manifestation wherein religion and the world are intertwined and the entire nation is moving along the way of Allah, the way of true jihad and industrious endeavours; before 'Abd al-'aziz, and after him the banner of monotheism was carried by men who honoured their pledge to Allah. The last to pass away was King Khalid, our departing monarch who returned to his creator having done his duty well and having further enhanced the lagacy of his brothers, father and ancestors, a contribution which we hope will entitle him to enjoy the mercy of Allah and the paradise of His eternity and will, in the physical absence of him, enshrine his memory in the hearts of his people.

The responsibility for the state has been and continues to be handed down smoothly and with no difficulty from a predecessor to a successor since the creed of Islam is the foundation of justice and justice is the foundation of kingship and the enforcement of what Allah has sent down is a responsibility and a mandate which we assume with hearts palpitating with awe, lest a task done not as perfect as it should be may incur Allah's displeasure and punishment.

Saudi Arabia is one of the states of Islam. It is by them and for them; it was founded for the very purpose of raising the banner of the call for Allah; it is being honoured by Allah with the responsibility to serve His house and the sanctuary of His prophet, a duty that entails larger responsibilities and a distinctive policy.

In discharging those duties at the international front, Saudi Arabia fully observes Allah's injunctions that enjoin preaching with wisdom and a pleasant style and draws inspiration from what the apostle of guidance, peace be on him, used to do when facing hardship and grave occasions -- he used to employ logic in the same manner of employing force, for Islam, the religion of mercy, logic and power does not condone sabotage and fights demagogy the way it fights servility, weakness and complaisance. This, brothers, is the fountainhead of our policies, both internal and external. It follows therefore that those who believe in Allah among Muslim leaders and ulemas are dutybound to back us up and to move with us along the road of the call for Allah and the enforcement of His injunctions in all the spheres of life; or our part, we extend our hands to them with unadulaterated sincerity and with firmness blemished neither by weakness nor hesitation. We do realise that with true intentions, sincere endeavours and closing of ranks, the nation of Islam will become the most powerful nation in the world; faith comes first then the huge resources with which it has been favoured by Allah along with its pivotal geographical location to crown it all; a military force is needed to strike terror in the heart of the enemy and offer protection to friends.

This objective which we still strive to achieve, had it been realised the big powers would not have engineered plots against us to tear us apart and invade our lands, the Palestinian people would not have remained homeless for more than three decades, Afghanistan would have remained independent and never violated by the jackboots of the invaders, our occupied Arab territories would have been recovered and our people would have breathed the breeze of freedom and would have got rid of the persecution at the hands of the tyrants.

Had the nation of Islam, fellow countrymen, been able to achieve its unity, Israel would have never gone on the rampage with such insolence, killing thousands of innocent women and children in Lebanon and yet the plots hatched by the enemies of Islam against us do not stop at that; they are not confined to invasion and occupation, these are only the overt manifestations of their plot. What is far more dangerous, I am afraid, is to fight us from within by two of their most deadly weapons, sowing the seeds of dissension among our nations and driving our young men to extremes. We do not believe for a minute that colonialism, both old and new, is innocent of the charge of fanning the embers of sedition among Muslim nations and sponsoring radical movements and extremists which have arisen in parts of our Islamic homeland. These movements pay homage to subversion and exploiting the state of indignation prevailing among our masses; as a result of the many injustices committeed by East and West against us they try to direct all that fury against the internal front smashing, destroying and talking a language alien to Islam, that of cruel violence and unjustified killing, living all the time in ivory towers.

Islam, my brothers, is the religion of mercy, logic and power, the religion that is fit for all times and all places; the apostle of Allah, peace be on him, passed away but not before leaving us with a well defined way of life from which only those who are doomed may swerve. This is the concept, fellow countrymen, that governs our external policy, we move ahead step by step in accordance with circumstances.

The first phase of cooperation to which we pledged is the Arab League; we try inside the league, in collaboration with our Arab brothers, to close ranks and patch up differences, proceeding from the faith we have in the maxim that portrays unity as a force of deterrence and fragmentation, as weakness and servility. We do sincerely hope that sideline differences with which the Arab states are plagued will disappear and that it will not take long for Egypt to rejoin its Arab brothers, so that we may become stronger and our estrangement may come to an end.

By the blessing of Allah, we and our brothers in the Gulf have been able to set up within the framework of the Arab League a powerful and efficient instrument, namely the Gulf Cooperation Council, which serves as a model for how the standard of cooperation among Arab brothers has to be and will become a pillar boosting the Arab League and a shield which protects the Arabs, spares them harm and deepens the bonds they have in common. You are well aware, fellow countrymen, of how the call for Islamic solidarity emanated from this holy land, Saudi Arabia, and how it was opposed by both East and West, who sought to nip it in the bud; but thanks to the determination of dedicated Muslim leaders, we were able to set up the Islamic Conference Organization and a number of agencies affiliated to it or pledged to the implementation of its objectives; this is the platform within whose confines we exercise our Islamic activities in terms of importance and power. It is no less significant than the Arab platform, since in Islam lies our glory and Muslims are our supporters and the strategic depth we need.

The Islamic Conference Organization has still a long way to go; it has covered only the initial lap. Had it arrived to that advanced point of power which we wish it to attain, the war between the two sister countries Iran and Iraq would not have errupted and Muslim wounds would not have continued to bleed; the differences among Muslims would not have deepened and their countries would not have fallen a prey to destruction.

We, in the name of Islam that binds us together, strongly call on those responsible for the continuation of the war to observe the law of Allah, to put an end to the free flow of this pure blood, to accept Allah's judgment [and] put an end to the war and eliminate the causes which lie at the root of its eruption.

We are active, fellow countrymen, in the wider international sphere within the framework of the United Nations, its agencies and committees; we are committed to its charter, we reinforce its endeavors and struggle against any perverted move to undermine it or weaken the force of international law only to get it replaced by the brute force of arms and the language of terrorism; our acts have reflected and will continue to reflect our sense of belonging to a world community which, in spite of its divergent interests, is in fact one family; likewise our acts portray the faith we have in the principles of peace built on right and justice. We do believe that peace and political stability in the world are linked to economic justice and are its logical corollary. Our internal policy, fellow countrymen, takes shape in all fields in line with the injuctions of Islam and the call for the orthodox faith. The style and method of government are the most important of our internal policies. Government in Islam is based on consultation; the ruler seeks council from influential men and receives their help in attending to the affairs of state. This is our policy, it is the policy that has been observed by our predecessors. With the evolution undergone by the Saudi society an equivalent evolution of the style and methods of government had become necessary; the basic system of government has to be codified to achieve this purpose. The late King Khalid had appointed a committee of senior officials and men of thought to lay down the essential principles of the basic system of government and the consultative council and to draw a final draft for these principles. The committee had brought its work to completion and referred it to the departing monarch. However, the death of King Khalid, may his soul rest in peace, temporarily disrupted further studies on the issue; these principles, God willing, will be in the forefront of issues of concern to me, so that they may emerge in their final shape an integrated system of government which defines responsibilities, rights and duties and regulates the institutions of the government and its powers in the light of the book of Allah, which is our constitution, and the traditions of His prophet, which constitute a model of life to be copied by us. This will be accompanied or preceded by moves to bring to completion the necessary measures to put in to force the districts law and with that the organization of the style of government on all levels will have been completed.

Praise be to Allah, fellow countrymen, that we have successfully carried out two development plans which focussed on the creation of the necessary infrastructure; consequently, citizens today are enjoying such services as only to be found in advanced parts of the world. First to admit our successful performance were those foreign observers who had voiced their doubts as to our ability to absorb modern technology in such a short time; we pray to Allah to enable us to carry out the third plan with the same measure of success scored in implemeting the previous two, then we may proudly declare that we have brought about a real shift in the economic infrastructure leading to a more diversified production base. The first fruits of this ultimate goal are already within reach; we are following with interest the tangible activity underway in building basic industries, increasing domestically manufactured commodities, and devoting more efforts to the task of mineral exploration; it is gratifying to note that there are signs of huge mineral resources which are still to be tapped. All of us take pride in the agricultural achievements which are in evidence in the various parts of the kingdom and which have encouraged many people to look forward to a day when the country may become self-sufficient with regard to a long list of agricultural produce; the state will give its backing to this effort which helps to achieve an important national objective.

The next five-year plan will focus on two things: to build the Saudi individual who is able to contribute to development and is entitled to reap its benefits, and to improve the environment in which he lives. We shall always have as a cherished objective, God willing, the need for a proper distribution of income among the population so that each individual may partake of the rich resources of his country, no matter how far his residence may be from the centres of urban activity industrialization and construction boom. One of our objectives is to see to it that the fast moving wheel of education will maintain its momentum and that the level of education will be improved both qualitatively and quantitatively. Taking steps to strengthen our armed forces, fellow countrymen, tops our list of priorities; we will spare no effort to develop our armed forces into an efficient machine capable to deter any enemy who may be tempted to violate the safety and stability of this country.

Time has proved our words to be true and our calculations to be accurate; had others listened to us carefully our collective Arab or oil power would not have weakened. We shall treat the interests of the developing nations with the same care by which we treat our own interests and those of the world at large.

I have talked to you, fellow countrymen, about our policies, the plans of our government and its duties. I expect each and every one of you to remain alive to your responsibility for your religion and country. The state is composed of a people and a government that represents and works for the wellbeing of the people. A nation may attain its aspirations and achieve the goals of advancement it has set for itself through the efforts and struggle of its people; yours is a responsibility of great significance in the eyes of Allah, and your prospects for constructive work are bright. Therefore, hold fast to your religion, adhere to your ideals and values and never slacken your pace; you do have the opportunity to rebuild your culture, don't let it slip by because if it did it will never be retrieved. An enormous responsibility falls on the shoulders of our young men, in particular, since they are the pillars of construction at present and the mastermind of further development in the future; they owe it to themselves and their heritage not to imitate the lost youth in the West and not to resign themselves to lascivious pleasures, lest they fall into the abyss of nothingness. Let them steer clear from extremist and parochial views, for Islam is a religion of tolerance and accepts no bigotry.

I would not like to wind up my talk to you, my fellow countrymen, without referring to the tragedy now unfolding in Lebanon. Israel has gone too far in its arrogance and conceit, it has started a war of genocide against elderly people, women and innocent children in full view and hearing of the world public opinion. We have exerted and continue to exert intensified efforts at various international forums and in all political fields to curb Israel's excesses and its arrogance, to put an end to its oriminal aggression and to force it to pull out its forces beyond the borders; all that we pray for now is for Allah to crown our endeavours with success. As I am addressing you now, fellow countrymen, I already feel the enormous dimensions of my responsibilities and how weighty the trust is which Allah has willed that I should bear. I pray to Allah, the exalted and the high, that He may help me to shoulder my responsibilities. I pledge myself before Allah and you to devote undivided time and effort to the task of securing your comfort and ensuring prosperity, security and stability to our dear homeland. I further pledge to act as a father to your young and a brother to the old; I am but one of you, what pains me and what pleases you pleases me. May Allah guide us in the right path and help us boost our religion, which is our haven and source of glory; may Allah confer on our loyal people the glory and prosperity to which they aspire.

May Allah help us see both right and wrong in their true colours so that we may cling to the former and avoid the latter. He, high be His power, is the best patron and champion. Peace be on you.

PRINCE 'ABDALLAH SPEAKS ON PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

LD231350 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Speech by Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard on the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, 23 July -- recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Thanks be to God, the Lord of mankind, and peace and blessings on the master of messengers.

Dear citizens, sons of the honorable Saudi Arab people, my brothers and sons, men of the armed forces, it gives me pleasure on the occasion of the blessed 'Id al-Fitr to extend to you all my heartfelt congratulations on the Ramadan fast and the glorious 'Id al-Fitr, beseeching the Lord that it may return good and blessing to you, us and all Arabs and Muslims.

Dear citizens, our people and our Arab and Islamic nation today face a challenge of evil and the ferocity of aggression. Our Islam and our Arabism have accustomed us to respond to each challenge and defeat it. The force of right is [words indistinct] force and the right of force is a right if [words indistinct] today it will disappear tomorrow. Therefore, it is high time for Israel to understand that the arrogance of force is incapable of annihilating an Arab people like our cherished Palestinian people and that the arrogance of force is too weak to uproot Lebanon from the soil of Arabism. The tree of peace does not feed on blood, and a peace achieved through force is a [word indistinct] peace.

Dear citizens, Palestine with its holy Jerusalem is the starting point and the meeting place of Arabs and Muslims, and of every individual who believes in God. The region shall not know any stability unless the enemy recognizes the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, their right to self-determination and right to return to their country and their right to set up a state on the soil of their usurped homeland. These are rights that are not open to [word indistinct] or debate.

The replacing of legitimacy with usurpation and the threatening of legitimacy with aggression are rejected by the laws of Heaven and the laws of earth. Therefore, his majesty my commander, who struggles today as he did yesterday for the realization of right, announces that the international community is not a forest dominated by a rabid wolf or governed by rampaging arrogance and the fits of a madman. Right is not a relative issue restricted by force and interpreted by aggression. This is what Israel and its supporters should understand. Survival of the fittest is the law of the jungle, not of man. Here I am not speaking from a position of weakness but from one of strength, that of the believer in God who is confident of the future and who knows the [words indistinct] of the nation and who is confident of the wise leadership of Fahd.

Dear citizens, ever since the day there was a Palestine and after the Palestinian cause emerged in the days of the constructive King 'Abd al-'Aziz, may God rest this soul, your state has given this cause absolute priority among its interests. It has not spared, abstained, hesitated, maneuvered, or bargained over Palestinian rights. Your state saw that the solidarity of the Arabs and the Muslims, peoples and states, is alone capable of bringing the enemy back into its natural form, and [words indistinct] and because of this we even rose above bleeding wounds and turned a blind eye to one lie after another and one wrong after another as our organic [words indistinct] and duty are not curbed by liars [words indistinct]. Your state, the state of citizen and official, sees that duty alone is the just witness before God and history.

May God preserve His Majesty King Fahd, prolong his life and make this 'Id return to us with the banners of pride and victory flying over us. Peace be upon you, God's mercy and his blessings.

UAE

SHAYKH ZAYID MEETS OMANI MINISTER IN SWITZERLAND

GF241430 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan received at his residence in Geneva today the Omani minister of royal diwan affairs, Hamad ibn Humud Al Bu Sa'id, who conveyed the greetings of Sultan Qabus of Oman and enquired about his health. The meeting was attended by Shaykh Ahmad ibn Rashid al-Mu'alla, member of the Supreme Council and ruler of Uhm al-Qaywayn, and Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad; UAE deputy prime minister.

The Omani minister left the country for Switzerland yesterday at the Omani sultan's request to enquire about the health of UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan.

'SOURCE' ON HABIB VISIT, ACCEPTING PALESTINIANS

NC242055 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2028 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA) -- In a statement to MENA, a responsible source has denied reports that U.S. envoy Philip Habib's mission in Cairo has to do with Egypt's acceptance of a number of Palestinians. He affirmed that this report is groundless. The source said President Husni Mubarak had previously stated that the Palestinians must depart Lebanon for their national homeland, and several times in press statements he questioned where the Palestinians would go.

The source referred to President Mubarak's recent message to U.S. President Reagan, saying it emphasized that before or during the Palestinians' departure from Lebanon a solution must be found to the Palestinian problem.

'ALI SUBMITS REPORT TO MUBARAK ON HABIB MEETING

NC242128 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA) -- MENA has learned that Kamal Hasan 'Ali, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, tonight submitted to President Husni Mubarak a comprehensive report on the results of his talks with U.S. envoy to the Middle East Philip Habib.

Meanwhile, Minister Plenipotentiary Ra'uf Ghunaym, the Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman, said Kamal Hasan 'Ali conveyed to Philip Habib Egypt's views on the current situation in Beirut and the Palestinian question in light of the continuous contacts Egypt is holding with the various parties to the conflict. Ghunaym added that during his meeting with Habib, 'Ali reviewed the results of his recent contacts in the area. Habib is expected to make a statement after his meeting with President Mubarak tomorrow, Sunday.

More on 'Ali's Talks

NC242200 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA) -- MENA has learned that during the talks held tonight U.S. envoy Philip Habib conveyed to the Egyptian side the U.S. ideas and efforts around which his current mission revolves as well as the results of his contacts in the Arab capitals that he visited and his assessment of the current situation. MENA has also learned that the Egyptian side, led by Kamal Hasan 'Ali, conveyed to Habib Egypt's views on the ideas that Habib set forth in light of the contacts Egypt is holding with the various parties.

During the talks with Habib tonight the Egyptian side stressed the following points:

1. The need for an Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

2. The need to immediately stop the bloodshed and guarantee the safety of all the PLO members.

3. Emphasizing the Palestinian people's right to determine their future and the fact that there can be no solution to the Middle East problem nor a just peace in the area unless a just solution is found to the Palestinian question, a solution that will achieve the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

4. The need to preserve Lebanon's sovereignty, independence, security and the unity of (?all) its territory.

'ALI MAKES STATEMENT ON HABIB-MUBARAK TALKS

GF251400 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1234 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Mul (MENA) -- Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has pointed out that the talks held between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. envoy Philip Habib focused on the Lebanese crisis and the Palestinian issue.

In a statement to MENA, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Philip Habib projected U.S. views on settling the Lebanese crisis on which his Middle East tour concentrates and the results of his contacts in the Arab capitals he visited recently as well as his assessment of the current situation in Beirut. He added that President Husni Mubarak expounded Egypt's stand on the U.S. view and noted that the subject requires further consultations.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said this might necessitate his visiting Washington during the next few days. He said Egypt believes there are priorities that must be followed in parallel with the solution of the Beirut crisis together with the necessity of preserving the cease-fire.

In his statement to MENA, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said Egypt had pointed out to the U.S. envoy the necessity of politically linking the immediate stage regarding the solving of the Lebanese crisis, stopping the bloodshed in Lebanon, Israel's withdrawing from it, and preserving Lebanon's sovereignty, independence and unity with the next stage regarding a comprehensive solution (?by recognizing) the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, including their right to self-determination.

Meanwhile, MENA has learned that during the talks with Philip Habib the Egyptian side emphasized the following:

1. The necessity of immediately stopping the bloodshed in Lebanon. The cease-fire must be a real one, not one followed by aggressive sniping operations, as are happening in west Beirut.

2. The necessity of preserving the safety of all PLO members.

3. The significance of the U.S. role and dialogue between the United States and the PLO, aid for the Palestinian people, provision of a political dimension to the Palestinian organization and the need to consider the Palestinian issue as the basis for the peace process.

4. An immediate goal represented in ending the suffering of the Beirut inhabitants and Israeli withdrawal as well as a secondary goal of achieving peace based on right and justice, which will not be achieved without recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

MENA has also learned that the issue of the countries which will receive Palestinian fighters was one of the minor subjects touched upon during the talks.

AL-AHRAM WELCOMES EXPANDING HABIB'S MISSION

NC242304 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA) -- In tomorrow's editorial, Sunday, the newspaper AL-AHRAM welcomes the U.S. decision to broaden the framework of the mission of Philip Habib, President Reagan's envoy, to include several Arab capitals in his tour. The paper says this decision means Washington has begun to hold the tip of the entangled thread [words indistinct] from sound premises and raise Philip Habib's mission from the level of a mere Lebanese-Palestinian-Israeli crisis to a sound perspective -- that is, the original level of the Palestinian question within its overall Arab-Israeli context.

The paper says the decision is evidently a result of the U.S. concern to follow the marginal problems to their basic roots, particularly after President Reagan's meeting with the Arab delegation and Washington's realization that defusing the explosive situation in the Middle East begins with the Palestinian question.

Concluding its editorial, AL-AHRAM says the U.S. decision is a good start on the sound path. The question, however, is whether Israel will allow the U.S. initiative to continue in order to determine the roots of the question or whether Israel will engulf it with new fires.

BUTRUS GHALI CONFERS WITH PLO OFFICIAL

GF241615 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 24 Jul (MENA) -- An official meeting was held at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon between the Egyptian Government and the PLO. The Egyptian side was headed by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Palestinian side by Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, PLO Executive Committee member.

After the meeting Dr Butrus Ghali said they had discussed the French-Egyptian project to confront the Lebanese crisis and resolve the Palestinian issue. He said that during the meeting the Palestinian delegation called for action to discuss this project in the security Council immediately.

He said they also made a comprehensive assessment of the situation in light of the visit which the U.S. envoy will make to Cairo this evening.

Dr Ghali said the Palestinian side presented an accurate and detailed review of various developments in the situation so "we will have an overall and clear picture and complete understanding of the PLO stand and the Palestinian view of the issue during our talks with Philip Habib this evening."

Dr Ghali said a meeting will be held at the Foreign Ministry at 2000 today between Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Philip Habib, who is scheduled to arrive in Cairo at 1700. The meeting will also be attended by a number of ministry assistants and experts in Middle East affairs. He said President Husni Mubarak will receive Habib in Cairo tomorrow morning.

Dr Ghali said the Foreign Ministry will present a report to President Mubarak on the outcome of the talks held with the PLO and on the talks which will take place with Philip Habib this evening.

It should be noted that Habib's visit to Egypt is within the framework of a tour that includes Saudia Arabia, Israel, Jordan and Syria. Philip Habib will leave Cairo at 1300 on 26 July.

Dr Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani, PLO Executive Committee member, told newsmen that the PLO is continuing its contacts with fraternal Arab Egypt and with other countries to end the Beirut battle in an honorable way that befits our Arab nation. He affirmed the need to end the Israeli siege of Beirut and the suffering of the city's 500,000 inhabitants. He said: "It was necessary to brief Egypt on the detailed facts of the situation in Beirut before Philip Habib's visit to Cairo. This is part of the joint effort to exchange information and within the coordination which we feel it is important at this sensitive stage."

Dr ad-Dajani added: "We also have to say that the French-Egyptian project which will be presented to the Security Council and which tries to link the Beirut problem with the overall problem should focus on the Palestinian issue, which is the core of conflict in the region."

Ad-Dajani said he listened to Dr Ghali's explanation of this project and the latest developments affecting it. "We expressed our point of view on the project and we agreed strongly to act. We also had questions on some details of the project. There is no objection to it. The role of those who put forward this project and the idea on which it centers -- linking the Beirut problem and the overall issue -- are appreciated," he said.

Asked about the questions on the French-Egyptian project, he said they pertain to technical details regarding some terms, expressions and choices.

Ad-Dajani was asked: "Are you ready to leave Beirut?" He answered: "The PLO has never considered the current issue to be its departure." He noted that "the proposed issue is Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon and an end to the seige. As for arranging the relationship between the PLO and the Lebanese Government, the Lebanese Government and the PLO have covered extensive ground and have broached extremely delicate [daqiqah] details. It would have been possible to achieve a compromise agreement had it not been for the Isareli invasion and its stubborn and aggressive stand.

Ad-Dajani said he believes that when this intransigent stand ends -- due to the effect of the international stand -- and the international forces come and disengage the combatants, the remaining points will be tackled on the basis of a PLO presence in Beirut -- political and informational -- and a military presence within the Arab-accepted formula which came into being when the PLO was born in many Arab countries.

Asked about Philip Habib's current mission, Ad-Dajani said: "We have followed this mission for a long time. It is known that we suffered from it. However, we insist on making all possible efforts to realize the goals which we have set, the immediate goals being an end to the suffering of Beirut citizens and foiling the Zionist expansionist plots."

Ad-Dajani affirmed that there is one other goal: reaching peace in the region based on justice, a goal which will not be realized without recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

The Palestinian official was asked what he meant by his words "we suffered from Habib's mission." He replied: "The fact is that from the beginning Habib's mission has been associated with this continuing Isareli aggression. It was also associated a year ago with this war against the city of Beirut. It was associated with details which preoccupy the people, with minor issues at the expense of the essential issue -- the Palestine issue. This issue is that of the Palestinian people's national rights. Attempts were made to lead the issue into other directions, as if the issue were the Palestinian Resistance's exit from Lebnon."

Ahmad ad-Dajani wondered: "Where will the Resistance go?" He added: "The Resistance knows very well that its only way is to Palestine. Departure will be for Palestine. The solution is clear and public opinion knows it. International will would have been crystallized had it not been for the stand which the United States is still taking, and which we hope will be affected by international efforts and by the efforts of all parties dealing with the United States so that this stand will change.

In reply to another question whether the PLO will hold a dialogue with Philip Habib, Ahmad Sidqi ad-Dajani said: "The PLO clearly announced some time ago that it favors dialogue with all countries in this world, including the United States, provided the dialogue is unconditional."

He said: "What has shackled the United States in this dialogue is its secretary of state's 1975 agreement on the second stage of disengagement of forces in the Sinai. Thus the United States fettered itself. We still propose a dialogue and we are ready to meet any U.S. official unconditionally."

In reply to the last question on the U.S. participation in the peace-keeping forces, he said: "The PLO is very much concerned that the international force be within the United Nations, which has to crystalize this stand through contacts by various countries. However, what concerns us in this regard is that the force be within the United Nations."

The 2-hour meeting was attended by Zuhdi al-Qudrah, in charge of the Palestinian people's affairs in Egypt, and Muhammad Subayh, secretary general of the Palestine National Council. It was also attended on the Egyptian side by Ambassador 'Ali Sa'd al-Fararji, Tu'ad Yusuf and some experts in Palestinian affairs.

'ALI ON 'ARAFAT'S RECOGNITION OF 242, 338

NC252100 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2025 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA) -- Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has made an exclusive statement to MENA in reaction to the U.S. CBS television network report on Yasir 'Arafat's signing of a document recognizing UN Security Council Resolutions Nos 242 and 338 and of Israel's right to exist. Kamal Hasan 'Ali declared that this signing is considered a major and important development in this matter as well as a step which the Palestinian side has taken toward peace. He said this action must be met by other steps on Israel's part -- and this matter also calls for an Israeli recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

In his statement of MENA, Kamal Hasan 'Ali added that this Palestinian document must be met with an immediate cessation of Israeli military operations and of the bloodshed which has watered Lebanese territory.

Kamal Hasan 'Ali said: This development also affords the United States greater opportunities for solving the issue in a comprehensive and just manner. This development also entails a great responsibility for Israel in connection with the peace process and with the stability of the situation in the area. It requires Israel to recognize all the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

AL-AHRAM SUMMARIZES COUNTRY'S STAND ON LEBANON

GF251112 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA) -- Cairo AL-AHRAM today says that Egypt has informed U.S. envoy Philip Habib of the following points:

Egypt is interested in hearing the U.S. point of view concerning the Lebanese problem, and particularly the opinion of Ambassador Philip Habib and his evaluation of the situation and the method of solving this problem.

Egypt does not want to hear views that imply an apology that a U.S. role cannot be played under the pretext of Israeli pressure. The United States has a role and influence and its interests necessitate the elimination of all existing conflicts.

While seeking a comprehensive peace, Egypt is anxious for the United States to participate with it in finding the correct bases and principles for solving the Palestinian problem. Thus, the Lebanese crisis can be resolved on the basis of the current facts and by arranging for an Israeli withdrawal from Beirut.

The Egyptian stand, which is supported by many states, foremost of which is France, is summarized in the draft resolution that was submitted to the Security Council and calls for:

1. The full commitment by all sides not to resort to the use of violence.

2. An imediate Israeli withdrawal from around Beirut as a prelude to its complete withdrawal together with the withdrawal of the Palestinian forces, which will be redistributed outside the capital according to certain measures to be agreed upon.

3. The withdrqwal of all other foreign forces except those approved of by Lebanon itself.

4. The Lebanese Government's full control over the capital and all Lebanese territories.

5. The UN secretary general to send UN observers and form a UN force to preserve peace.

6. Affirmation of the right of all states in the region to exist and be secure and affirmation of the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination and their representation in the negotiations, provided the PLO participates in all this. This is necessary to solve the Lebanese problem.

7. Instantaneous and reciprocal recognition among all concerned parties.

MUBARAK, REAGAN EXCHANGE CABLES ON HOLIDAYS

'Id al-Fitr Messages

GF231412 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA) -- President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has received a congratulatory cable from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on the occasion of 'Id. The following is the text of the cable:

"His Excellency President Husni Mubarak, President of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Dear Mr President, I hope you will accept my personal good wishes to you and your family on the occasion of the blessed 'Id. The American people express with me their hope and good wishes that peace and prosperity shall, God willing, be achieved for the Egyptian people and other nations in your region. I look forward to continuing the close cooperation between our two peoples at a time when we seek to achieve peace and security in the Middle East. We share with you your celebrations and prayers on this 'Id and we hope we shall be able to participate in the accomplishment of more peace and happiness in the world during future 'Ids. With my best wishes."

President Husni Mubarak replied with the following cable:

"His Excellency President Ronald Reagan, President of the United States. Dear Mr President, I have received the kind cable you sent to me on the occasion of our 'Id celebrations. I thank Your Excellency and the friendly American people for your good wishes to me and to the Egyptian people, who exchange with your people every affection and appreciation. I wish on this occasion to assure your excellency that, stemming from its national and historic responsibilities, Egypt has always been anxious to participate with all truth-and-justice-loving powers and states in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. International peace and prosperity are linked to the achievement of peace and stability in this vital region. Extending my best wishes, I hope the relations of friendship and cooperation between our two countries will continue to develop and progress in the interest of our two peoples and in the interest of cooperation and fraternity among all nations. With my best appreciation."

Revolution Day Message

GF251958 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1925 GMT Jul 82

[Text] Cairo, 25 Jul (MENA) -- U.S. President Ronald Reagan has expressed confidence that the United States and Egypt will continue their close cooperation for prosperity and peace in the Middle East. This came in a congratulatory message President Husni Mubarak received from President Reagan on the 30th anniversity of the Egyptian revolution. President Mubarak sent a reply cable in which he affirmed that the Egyptian people will proceed toward a just and permanent peace out of their belief that international peace is indivisible.

The following is the text of Reagan's cable to Mubarak:

Your Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt. (?I send my congratulations and the congratulations of the American people to you and the Egyptian people on the 30th anniversary of the Egyptian revolution.) I also congratulate you on the remarkable progress the Egyptian people have achieved on the path to (?peace) and progress set by the revolution. Through your leadership this progress has continued despite the difficulties it is facing. The efforts Your Excellency is making receive my total support. I am confident our countries will continue their close cooperation for, prosperity and peace in the Middle East.

The following is the text of the reply cable President Mubarak sent to President Reagan:

Your Excellency Ronald Reagan, president of the United States of America.

Dear Mr. President, I gratefully received your kind congratulations on the 30th anniversary of the Egyptian revolution. It pleases me to thank Your Excellency and the friendly American people for your noble feelings toward me and toward the Egyptian people, who share your amity and appreciation. I take this opportunity to assure you that our people, who believe in peace as a principle and believe in it as an (?idea) of civilization, will continue on the road to just and permanent peace out of the belief that international peace is indivisible. I am sure the ties of friendship and positive cooperation between our countries will witness further expansion and development (?for our mutual interest) and in the service of international peace and security.

Wishing you good health and happiness and your friendly people further progress and prosperity.

ZAIRIAN ENVOY DELIVERS MESSAGE TO MUBARAK

GF241305 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, received Lengema Dulia, Zairian deputy minister of foreign affairs and international cooperation [title as heard] and special envoy of Zairian President Mobuto, this afternoon. The envoy delivered a message from the Zairian president to President Husni Mubarak. In this message President Mubuto invites President Mubarak to attend the Afro-French summit conference scheduled to convene in Kinshasa on 8 and 9 October.

Talks between Dr Ghali and the Zairian envoy dealt with bilateral relations and aspects of cooperation between the two countries within the framework of their close relations. They also exchanged views on current African issues.

HUSAYN, SAUDI CROWN PRINCE HOLD TALKS 25 JULY

JN250915 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 25 Jul (INA) -- Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has ended a 1-day visit to Iraq during which he met with President Saddam Husayn. The Saudi crown prince left Baghdad for home at noon today.

During the meeting yesterday between President Saddam Husayn and Prince 'Abdallah they discussed current developments of the situation in the Arab arena in general and the developments of the Iraq-Iran war and the Zionist invasion of Lebanon in particular as well as ways for strengthening bilateral relations.

HUSAYN RECEIVES CONGRATULATIONS FROM MUBARAK

JN251424 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received more cables of congratulations on the blessed 'Id al-Fitr. His excellency received a cable from Col Seyni Kountche, president of the Supreme Military Council of Niger, and a cable from Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

REPORTAGE ON IRANIAN ARMED FORCES INVASION

Communique No 786

JN231654 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Communique No 786 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 23 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Each day that passes during our just defensive war against Iranian aggression and ambitions, glorious Iraqis are recording bright pages that will be remembered by future generations and humanity with pride and admiration. On the other hand, criminal Khomeyni and his tyrannical clique, who are living a life of madness, hallucination and charlatanism, are recording black pages in their history, stained with ignominy, defeat and humiliation.

The results of the operations at the front were as follows:

1. Last night and today, our units pounded enemy positions and concentrations in front of our positions east of Basra and killed 12; wounded a number of enemy personnel; captured 1 tank and destroyed 1 stockpile of hardware. It has been ascertained that, as a result of its abortive offensive on the night of 'Id al-Fitr, which was completely defeated by our forces, the enemy suffered great losses in men and equipment, part of which were reported in the military spokesman's statement last night.

These losses are: 2,328 dead; a great number of wounded; an important number of men captured; 17 tanks, 5 guns, 27 vehicle -- some them carrying soldiers and equipment -- 3 armored personnel carriers, and a great quantity of medium and light weapons and equipment destroyed; and a large amount of various weapons and equipment -- all serviceable -- captured.

2. One of our forward units in the central sector sighted an enemy force trying to approach our positions. Our units pounded the force with various weapons, killing five, wounding others and destroying one vehicle laden with hardware.

3. Our helicopters today carried out daring raids against enemy positions and troop assembly points scoring direct and effective hits and returning safely to base.

4. Last night, the aggressor Iranian enemy shelled residential areas in Basra with artillery martyring three citizens and injuring three others. The enemy artillery shelled this morning residential areas and economic installations in the city of Khanaqin causing damage.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 July 1982

Communique No 787

JN240716 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0655 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Communique No 787 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 24 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

God made it but a message of hope for you, and an assurance to your hearts: [In any case] there is no help except from God, the exalted, the wise. [Koranic verse]

Once again the clique of evil and charlatanism ruling in Tehran has tried to attack our forces and to cross our international borders. The soldiers of Iraq, however, were lying in wait for them and made them suffer the worst tortures and humiliation. In the wake of the humiliating defeats the enemy has suffered during the past 10 days and the collapse of all its schemes for aggression, the enemy, having regrouped its defeated and exhausted forces, attacked our forces in the sector of operations of the Al-Miqdad forces at 2330 last night. As was expected from the valiant soldiers of Iraq when defending their homeland and dignity, they were fully ready and very well organized. During successful and heroic battles which lasted all last night and until this morning, the valiant Al-Miqdad forces succeeded in completely annihilating the entire attacking force, not to mention those who were captured after surrendering as a result of the lightning blows of our victorious forces.

The enemy losses which have been counted up to the issuance of this communique are 2,245 killed and many prisoners.

Thus, the valiant soldiers of Iraq, the soldiers of the victorious leader Saddam Husayn, have proved once again and in another sector of the theater of operations that the sacred Iraqi territory will continue to be a fire that will burn all criminal aggressors who try to harm and soil it. The clique of evil and charlatanism oppressing the Iranian peoples, will only reap destruction, disappointment and shame from its desperate attempts to pursue war and aggression.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 24 July 1982

AL-WAZZAN COMMENTS ON 23 JULY TALKS WITH MINISTERS

NC231737 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan met in his office in the Government Palace today with former Prime Ministers Sa'ib Salam, Taqiy ad-Din as-Sulh, Dr Salim al-Huss and Rashid as-Sulh. During the discussion which dealt with the current situation in the country, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: In the face of these circumstances through which we are passing and which include many twists and turns, I wanted to meet with my brothers the former prime ministers to discuss the existing situation and expected developments in order to reach an understanding on the positions that should be adopted in these circumstances.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan added: These discussions were useful because we came out of them with the same feeling and the same understanding of this stage. It pleased me that the opinions were in agreement and that the outlook was the same.

Asked whether any decision was made during the meeting, Prime Minister al-Wazzan said: We are not required to make a decision on the discussions that took place. These consultations are followed, as I have said, by the same understanding and the same outlook to specify the expected steps.

JERUSALEM: AGREEMENT REACHED ON PLO WITHDRAWAL PLAN

TA241036 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] The Beirut paper AN-NAHAR reports that the Lebanese authorities have agreed to a plan according to which the terrorists will, at the first stage, be evacuated from Beirut to the center of the Lebanese Al-Biqa' Valley. According to the paper, the program was presented by Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan at a meeting of former prime ministers. Representatives from the Al-Biqa' region of Lebanon opposed it, explaining that it might solve the problem of Beirut, but it would cause a new problem in the Al-Biqa' region of Lebanon. AN-NAHAR also reports that President Sarkis also objected at first, but in the end he withdrew his opposition after he was promised that the terrorists would stay for a short time in the Al-Biqa' and, at the same time, arrangements would be made for other Arab countries to take them.

CABINET DISCUSSES SOUTH; AL-WAZZAN MAKES STATEMENT

NC241324 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] At 1330 [1130 GMT] today, the Cabinet meeting ended. It has been learned that the discussions during the meeting dealt with the events in the south and that it has been decided that Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus will represent Lebanon at the six-member committee meeting in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday [28 July].

After the meeting, Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan made a statement in which he said:

[Begin recording] In fact, the meeting was dedicated to examining the political situation and current developments, especially in the wake of the talks which have thus far been held with Philip Habib and those which have been held in Washington by the Arab League delegation Naturally, we have put all the details before the Cabinet, and it has noted all the stands which we have adopted and communicated to Mr Habib and those concerned.

It is important to point out also that at the outset of the meeting, his excellency the president took a very important stand with regard to what is happening in the south -- regrettable actions taken by the Israeli occupation affecting the official administrations and elements of the Lebanese Army and of the internal security forces, the establishment of new administrations and the arming of numerous parties. All this was strongly protested by the president and, of course, the Cabinet supported this protest and showed its readiness to take up the matter with the parties concerned on the international level. In these circumstances, all of us insist on cooperating and on adopting a unified stand on everything that would restore vigor to the legitimate institutions and unity to Lebanon and strengthen its pillars.

This is our main concern for the sake of which we are now working. It remains for me to say that in the present phase, we are awaiting [the results] of the round of talks which Mr Habib is conducting in some Arab countries so that, after his return, our talks here in Lebanon may take the course we seek -- the course which will ensure the complete success of our goals, especially in relation to the departure of the armed persons from Beirut to outside Lebanon. [end recording]

AL-WAZZAN, MINISTERS, SAUDI CHARGE HOLD TALKS

NC250815 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan yesterday focused his attention on following up developments in the political, security and living conditions in the country. He held several contacts with responsible leaders and discussed the current situation under the Israeli occupation and the continuing siege imposed on west Beirut.

Prime Minister al-Wazzan also pursued the security reports received from the various areas. For this purpose, Prime Minister al-Wazzan held a meeting at his office in the Government Palace with Ministers 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Labban, Marwan Hamadah and Khalid Junblatt. They discussed the general situation in the country and the results of the contacts taking place with the various parties.

The prime minister then received Saudi Charge d'Affaires in Lebanon Abu Bakr Rafiyah. They discussed the new developments in the Lebanese arena and the current contacts aimed at ending the Israeli occupation and achieving the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from all Lebanese territory. The discussions also dealt with the siege imposed on west Beirut, the continuing ban on the entry of food, fuel and medical supplies to the area and the inhabitants' suffering in this area.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORTED ON ISRAELI TRANSGRESSIONS

NC250645 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] The new fait accompli which Israel is trying to impose on the administrative, political and security levels in the south has met with the rejection of the officials and leaders through the stand which President Ilyas Sarkis has defined by emphasizing that such actions constitute a barrier to the current endeavors and contacts to save Lebanon through the maintenance of the unity of Lebanon's territory and institutions.

Israel is working at developing its occupation of Lebanese territory by changing its political and administrative character in order to abolish legitimacy in the south and divest it of its components. In light of this, the government is intensifying its contacts on more than one level in order to secure a swift and clear international stand that will put an end to Israel's actions in the south and frustrate its plan, which is contrary to international law and norms.

We point out here that the government's resolute and firm stand regarding the Israeli transgressions against the legitimate institutions in the south and elsewhere has met with the complete support and satisfaction of the various political leaders and circles.

'SOURCES': WITHDRAWAL COULD BEGIN BEFORE 10 AUG

NC250908 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Some information sources have reiterated that in the event progress is achieved in U.S. envoy Philip Habib's mission through his current Arab tour, Palestinian withdrawals from west Beirut could begin before 10 August and Palestinian, Syrian and Israeli withdrawals from all Lebanon could be completed in 3 months. The same sources said these steps were charted in a general manner in Washington during U.S. President Reagan's meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal and Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam.

DELEGATIONS SEE AL-WAZZAN, SCORE ISRAELI SIEGE

NC251345 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Since this morning Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan has been following the political and security situation, particularly in the wake of the bestial Israeli air raids and bombings of residential areas in west Beirut and the southern suburb. From his home, Al-Wazzan phoned President Ilyas Sarkis and discussed the new developments, particularly the security situation. He conveyed to him the demands of citizens' delegations that have visited him and denounced the Israeli military escalation and its resumption of the artillery shelling, air raids and tightening of the siege of west Beirut and Beirut's southern suburb.

In the morning, Al-Wazzan received in his home several delegations representing Beirut families, which conveyed their vehement denunciation and protest of the Israeli siege of Beirut and the Israeli raids on civilian suburbs. These delegations told Al-Wazzan they consider these Israeli actions as a grave harbinger of the return of the policy of blackmail and pressure on the citizens through the tightening of the siege and intimidation. They insisted that Al-Wazzan explain and to all those concerned with events in Lebanon, so they may adopt a stand on this inhuman military escalation against the Lebanese civilian population.

ISLAMIC FRONT REJECTS PALESTINIANS IN TRIPOLI

NC232152 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Excerpt] The prime minister today received a special envoy sent by the Islamic Salvation Front of Tripoli. The envoy brought a letter from the front and handed it to Prime Minister al-Wazzan. The letter supports the prime minister's patriotic stances on remedying the present state of affairs and specifies some stances vis-a-vis the present serious machinations.

The envoy emphasized the contents of the statement that was issued by the Islamic Salvation Front on 20 July on the projected movement of the Palestinian fighters to Tripoli or to Al-Biqa'. The statement categorically rejected this idea in light of the detailed reasons specified in it.

'ARAFAT TURNS MIDEAST CONFLICT 'UPSIDE DOWN'

NC252202 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] What is new about the announcement made by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat that he has signed a [hand] written document declaring his acceptance of all UN resolutions is that it turns upside down all the given political facts of the Middle East conflict -- a conflict which has been going on for many years. It also appears that 'Arafat's mere declaration that he accepts all the UN resolutions implies his acceptance of Resolutions 242 and 338, which recognize Israel's right to exist.

REUTER confirmed tonight 'Arafat's signing of the document, but it pointed out that it is not yet clear whether the PLO's acceptance of the UN resolutions also includes the acceptance of Security Council Resolution 242, which is considered the cornerstone of U.S. Middle East policy.

It is known that the PLO demands the amending of Resolution 242 whereby it would refer to the right of the Palestinians to establish their own state and not consider the problem as merely a refugee problem.

McCloskey, who announced the news of the signing of the document, said 'Arafat accepts all the UN resolutions pertaining to the Palestinian problem.

VOL ON 'ARAFAT DOCUMENT, PFLP REACTION

NC260553 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 26 Jul 82

[Excerpts] The Palestinian document which has been affirmed by the chairman of the Palestinian National Council, Khalid al-Fahum, in Damascus, and which has divided the Palestinian stance regarding who is authorized to sign or announce it, has created more foreign than Arab diplomatic reaction.

The Palestinian reaction toward the step made by the PLO chairman have been within the framework of rejecting the decisions made by Yasir 'Arafat. The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine has announced that the only authority that can make the decision is the Palestinian National Council and that no other decision is of consequence.

SALAM CONFERS WITH U.S. DELEGATION 25 JULY

NC251808 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] [Former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam has spoken to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives delegation on the question of Lebanon, on Palestinian and regional issues and on the U.S. political stands on the Arab questions over the past 40 years. This took place at U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Robert Dillon's residence in Al-Yarzi this morning in the presence of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives delegation now visiting Lebanon. [sentence as heard] Salam explained to the delegation the Arab position toward the United States over the past 40 years and particularly since the establishment of Israel. He also explained the stages of the Palestinian question and the Lebanese issue, which he considered as grave as the Palestinian question.

In his explanation Salam concentrated on the Palestinian question and the emergence of the armed resistance and the role it carried out to explain and attain Palestinian rights. Salam dealt with Lebanon's tragedy and its current phase represented by the bestial Israeli invasion. He held U.S. policy, which has not realized and does not realize the facts of the Arab situation and the Lebanese situation in particular, responsible for all this.

HAMADAH CONDEMNS CONTINUING ISRAELI AIR RAIDS

NC260533 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Commenting on the resumption of the Israeli air raids against west Beirut, Minister Marwan Hamadah made a statement this afternoon in which he said: Israel's resumption of the air raids on civilian targets in west Beirut for the 4th day in a row, in addition to the land and sea bombardment and the supplies blockade, prompt us to believe that these rabid attacks are the categorical evidence of the failure of all the enemy's attempts to bring national Beirut to its knees and to impose capitulation on it.

Minister Hamadah emphasized that the object of this method of action is naturally to foil the peaceful solutions proposed by Lebanon, the Arabs and the international arena to settle the Beirut crisis and to adopt the stick of air raids in an abortive attempt to plant despondency. He said: This will be of no avail. The capital, which has become a symbol of the Lebanese steadfastness from An-Naqurah to Al-'Aridah, will remain the rock on which the waves of violence and external and internal blackmail will founder. We have demanded that Lebanon should act at the Security Council to expose the new chapter of the plot, particularly since Israel announced yesterday that this type of interference by air will continue regularly against Beirut.

In conclusion, Hamadah said: This reality has created and established convictions that the Israeli occupation precludes the free agreement of the Lebanese. We hope such an agreement will be achieved to resist and compel the enemy to withdraw so that the constitutional authority will be able to carry out its responsibilities.

BASHIR AL-JUMAYYIL COMMENTS ON TALKS WITH ARSLAN

NC232016 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] At 1630 [1430 GMT] this afternoon, Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, commander of the Lebanese Forces, and Joseph al-Hashim, chief of the province of Ash-Shuf, arrived at Amir Majid Arslan's palace in 'Alayh for a visit. They were received by Amir Faysal, Amir Talal and Minister [of State for Administrative Qualification Affairs] Sami Yunis. Immediately afterward, a meeting was held in which Majid Arslan, Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil, Amir Faysal Arslan, Minister Sami Yunis and Joseph al-Hashim participated. The discussions dealt with the current political and security subjects, especially the south.

Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil talked to reporters after the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Al-Jumayyil] Naturally, because of the military, political and national developments which we are experiencing today, I wanted to meet with Amir Majid and discuss with him all the current [words indistinct]. I consider that today's meeting has a historic, truly Lebanese character. I believe the meeting today was with a man who has done a big, big favor for Lebanon and from whom we can be inspired to perform several things related to the future. Amir Majid belongs to the historic generation which made independence possible in 1943, and he is one of those who helped achieved it. This independence may be completed, supported and developed in accordance with the new developments which have taken place and it must be adapted to these new developments by our generation. If his generation achieved independence, which is a great achievement -- the independence of Lebanon -- we are today completing the strengthening of its pillars with the experience, capabilities and knowledge of the situation we are experiencing now. This was the core of the talks held with Amir Majid, Amir Faysal and our brothers who attended the meeting.

[Question] Shaykh Bashir, was the situation in the mountain in particular dealt with?

[Answer] Certainly we discussed the situation in the mountain, in Beirut and in Lebanon as a whole, which is now suffering. All these were problems we considered during the meeting. I hope we have agreed on many matters so that we can alleviate these problems and events and the anxiety in the mountain and in any other Lebanese area.

[Question indistinct]

[Answer] [Words indistinct] I think these are questions to be directed to the amir. All I was interested in at this meeting was to show respect to the amir by visiting him. I was also interested in developing mutual understanding regarding all the developments we are now experiencing.

[Question] Regarding the situation as a whole, could you tell us where we now stand?

[Answer] I hope that we are still achieving progress and that through all the things being done we can spare Beirut and the mountain whatever possible suffering and that we can find the solutions that must be found so that we can avoid more problems. [end recording]

Amir Faysal Arslan also answered reporters' questions on the meeting and the subjects discussed. For his part, he said:

[Begin recording] The meeting with Shaykh Bashir has been expected for a long time, but the present circumstances and the illness of Amir Majid delayed it. But [word indistinct] we agreed with Shaykh Bashir [on this meeting]. We are not far away. [Words indistinct] We, we and Shaykh Bashir, will cooperate to (?build) the big Lebanon. We and Shaykh Bashir will cooperate to preserve the big Lebanon, the new Lebanon [word indistinct]. Regarding the mountain, there are historical relations. There are habits and traditions between the Druze and the Christians. We are now concentrating on them. There are some problems that have taken place [word indistinct] results. [end recording]

Later, Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil visited Deputy Kazim al-Khalil at his house in al-Hazimiyah. They consulted with each other on the current subjects.

BUTRUS TO ATTEND ARAB MEETING IN SAUDI ARABIA

NC251041 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Foreign and Expatriates Affairs Minister Fu'ad Butrus is scheduled to leave for Saudi Arabia on Wednesday to participate in the meetings of the Arab minicommittee which is to assess the results of the talks which Arab ministerial delegations have held in the capitals of the five big powers on the Lebanese situation and the future of the Palestinian issue.

BEIRUT TO SUBMIT NOTE TO UN ON ISRAELI RAIDS

NC251021 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] In a note to the Security Council, Lebanon will raise the subject of the resumption of the Israeli air raids of the capital and civilian targets. In the next few hours, the government will send instructions to this effect and details of the results of the raids to the Lebanese delegate to the United Nations, Ambassador Ghassan Tuwayni.

AL JUMAYYIL, ROMANIAN ENVOY MEET 24 July

NC241638 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text Before noon today Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil received Vasile Pungan, a Romanian state secretary. They held a round of talks on the minister's visit to the area and the current developments in the Lebanese arena. The Romanian diplomat announced that he was asked by President Ceausescu to get firsthand information on the situation in Lebanon for the sake of finding a political solution based on respect for the unity of the Lebanese people and territory as well as a solution for the Palestinian issue. He conveyed his thanks to the leader of the Phalangists. He considered their talks very positive.

VOP SAYS AL-JUMAYYIL FAMILY MEMBER MURDERED

NC241354 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1245 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] In the mountain, the Phalangist gangs are continuing their terrorist practices against the citizens, relying on the support of the Zionist invasion forces. In 'Alayh the Phalangist gangs assassinated a Lebanese policeman and a Sri Lankan woman.

This was preceded by clashes between the citizens of 'Alayh and the Phalangists when the inhabitants attacked the headquarters of Bashir al-Jumayyil's forces following Phalangist provocations.

A state of tension is prevailing in Bhamdun, because the Phalangist gangs closed shops by force following the murder of one of Bashir al-Jumayyil's relatives.

AL-AS'AD HOLDS CONTACTS ON PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

NC231536 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] Speaker [of the Chamber of Deputies] Kamil al-As'ad has continued his contacts with the parliamentary blocs aimed at reaching an agreement on a date for the election of a new president of the republic. At 1130 [0930 GMT], he received Deputy Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, representing the Phalangist deputies. Following the meeting Shaykh Amin said: We held the meeting in response to an invitation from Speaker al-As'ad on behalf of the Phalangist parliamentary bloc to discuss the role of the Chamber of Deputies at the present stage. He added that the Phalangist stance has always been to make sure that the constitutional institutions play their roles fully, even in the present circumstances.

Regarding the constitutional grace period for the election, Al-Jumayyil said the stance of the Phalangist Party is clear: This grace period must be respected and the Chamber of Deputies should do its best to conduct proper constitutional elections for the next president of the republic as soon as possible. This is required by the Constitution. More than that, this is what the majority of Lebanese citizens desire. The efforts of Speaker al-As'ad are aimed at protecting the Constitution and parliamentary traditions, especially in circumstances such as the ones we are experiencing.

Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil added: I feel that Speaker al-As'ad is determined to guarantee the normal atmosphere to secure success for this undertaking and that he is now preparing for a series of reconciliatory contacts in anticipation of the dangers threatening the homeland. We affirmed to the speaker the solidarity of the Phalangist parliamentary bloc with his efforts, and we placed the capabilities of the Phalangist forces and the entire party at his disposal for the sake of saving the country.

Speaker al-As'ad later received Deputies August Bakhus and Jubran Tawq, who represent the independent Maronite deputies. Deputy Bakhus affirmed that the bloc informed Speaker al-As'ad of its readiness to attend the session on the [presidential] election. Bakhus also called on the deputies to shoulder their responsibilities regarding securing a quorum.

The Chamber of Deputies speaker then received Deputies Farid Sirhan and Shafiq Badr.

Following this series of meetings, Speaker al-As'ad said: Today, the constitutional grace period began for electing a new president of the republic. Our consultations are continuing in line with the decision which we made to hold contacts with the various deputies. In light of the results of these contacts and the reality prevailing in the country and the constitutional grace period, we will make the decision regarding the invitation [to the deputies to attend the session on the election] in accordance with our national sense of duty.

AL-JUMAYYIL ANNOUNCES PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDACY

NC251002 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Shaykh Basir al-Jumayyil has announced his candidacy for the presidency, emphasizing that this candidacy is neither for maneuvering nor bargaining tactics and he will not back down from it. He called for the ouster of all the foreigners and non-Lebanese armed forces from the homeland. He explained that he does not object to the continued presence of Palestinian civilians if there is no place for them to go to.

Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil reaffirmed his adherence to Lebanon's unity, refusing to abandon any part of its territory, because this will expose its entire entity to danger. He emphasized that the danger posed today is to Lebanon's identity more than it is to Lebanon's unity.

Rejects All Foreign Forces

NC241943 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in English 1830 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] The fact in the framework of the Voice of Lebanon program "People's Parliament" that commander in chief of the Lebanese Forces Mr Bashir al-Jumayyil officially announced his candidacy for the coming presidential elections. [sentence as heard] Mr Bashir al-Jumayyil stated that his candidacy was neither a maneuver nor a pressure. He added that the elections must be held quickly to avoid for the state a constitutional (?vacuum) and for Lebanon to be a republic without a president, which is a very grave situation. On the other hand, the commander of the Lebanese Forces indicated that there was fear now for the identity of Lebanon and not for its unity.

In his usual, frank and open ways, the commander of the Lebanese Forces spoke of his presidential program in all its aspects -- military, educational and social. First of all, Mr Bashir al-Jumayyil rejected the presence of all foreign forces in Lebanon, beginning with the Palestinians, and I quote Mr Bashir al-Jumayyil: We don't want to throw them in the sea. But, Lebanese cannot bear their presence, whether in Beirut, Al-Biqa' or the north.

He also charged that the Palestinians were [words indistinct] for the first time, with [words indistinct] and continuing their maneuvers, their lies and their bluff. Lebanon, said the commander in chief of the Lebanese Forces, will remain the country with its 10,000 square km and its internationally recognized borders. Lebanon, he said, sacrificed enough and is not ready to sacrifice more for the Palestinians or their cause.

As to the relations with Syria, the commander in chief of the Lebanese Forces declared that these relations must be equal to those with any other country in the framework of mutual respect and recognition and with the (?economic) and diplomatic representation. He also said that Lebanon should [word indistinct] all its ancient dreams because nobody can (?smother) Lebanon. The commander in chief of the Lebanese Forces, Mr Bashir al-Jumayyil, also called for the return of all foreign forces from Lebanon, including the United Nations forces. For the commander of the Lebanese Forces the only military presence in Lebanon should be that of the Lebanese Army and their internal security forces.

Mr Bashir al-Jumayyil also spoke of the efforts to spare Beirut a catastrophe, saying that he has been the first to warn against the danger threatening Beirut. He also indicated that he has participated in the Committee of National Salvation to find a peaceful means to get the Palestinians out of Lebanon. He also said that he had allowed all the inhabitants of west Beirut to seek shelter in east Beirut and were welcomed as brothers. He also declared that he has been in contact with various west Beirut commands to find a peaceful and appropriate solution, but the Palestinians, again, presented or foiled all positive steps.

The commander of the Lebanese Forces also spoke of his visit in Saudi Arabia. He said (?this visit showed harmony) that prevails between him and other foreign ministers.

Views Lebanese Army Merger

NC250920 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Eucerpts] Shaykh Bashir al-Jumayyil has announced his candidacy for the presidency. He has also strongly warned against the consequences of any attempt to hamper the democratic parliamentary process so as not to imperil Lebanon's identity. This came at the end of the "People's Parliament" program carried by the Voice of Lebanon radio last evening.

Replying to a question on his stand, in the event he becomes president, on Israel's statement about concluding a peace treaty with Lebanon, the Lebanese Forces commander said: The developments we are witnessing in the Lebanese and Arab arenas make it premature to pose such a question. The matter is so serious that none of us can answer it because this will commit Lebanon to future matters. I believe a strong Lebanese government can tackle the Israeli presence in Lebanon. We can reach an understanding among ourselves as Lebanese and with the Arabs on the need to make the decision that will restore Lebanon's unity within its international borders. He added: If we succeed in securing the withdrawal of all the armed foreigners and in creating understanding among Lebanese within a framework of justice and equality, then we will have created the strong Lebanon that we want. He expressed the readiness of the Lebanese Forces to merge with the Lebanese Army when it becomes the sole legitimate force in Lebanon.

Replying to a question, he said: There will be a victor and a vanquished: The victor will be Lebanon and the countdown has started concerning the foreigners who have encroached on Lebanon.

On the future structure of Lebanon, the Lebanese Forces commander said: We cannot today submit constitutional and political formulas. What we want is for all the foreigners to leave. He added: Judge us on the basis of what we say, not on the basis of what is being said about us and what you hear from the foreigners. Today we need a Lebanese understanding that can rescue everyone from the conditions we are experiencing. The time has come for us to understand why we want this. [passage indistinct] He added: We are no longer waiting for the Arab Deterrent Forces to halt the massacres and for the Israeli army to bring about the return of the sons of Ad-Damur. We are no longer waiting for the French and the Americans. The time has come for our youth to shoulder their responsibilities.

SAUDI CROWN PRINCE ARRIVES IN DAMASCUS 25 JULY

JN251130 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, first deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard, arrived in Damascus at 1100 today on a visit to the country.

Meets With Al-Asad

JN260545 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 Jul 82

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad yesterday received His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, first deputy prime minister and commander of the National Guard. They exchanged viewpoints on the situation in Lebanon and the region.

Makes Statement

JN260620 Monte Carlo Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0600 GMT 26 Jul 82

[Text] Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah has paid a surprise visit to Damascus and held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad. In a statement after the talks, Prince 'Abdallah announced that he is not mediating between Baghdad and Damascus, because he has not been empowered to undertake such mediation.

Regarding Lebanon, Prince 'Abdallah said an ideal solution must begin with the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and the formation of a strong Lebanese government capable of safeguarding the unity of Lebanon and its people, because the unity of Lebanon is essential to the Palestine question.

DEFENSE MINISTER TALAS REPORTEDLY WOUNDED IN LEG

NC241319 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] According to information received by Voice of Lebanon, Syrian Defense Minister Mustafa Talas was wounded in the leg in a battle that took place in Al-Biqa' 2 evenings ago and was removed to the military hospital in Damascus.

MILITARY SPOKESMAN ISSUES WARNING TO ISRAEL

JN241126 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] A Syrian military spokesman in Damascus has answered a question by SANA on the enemy's violation of the cease-fire last Thursday. The spokesman said that if this kind of Israeli violation recurs, Syria will reply with unexpected blows and with all kinds of weapons, and will inflict far more losses in life and equipment on the Israelis than they expect.

Further Warning

JN241435 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1415 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] A responsible officer at the army command has stated that Israel knows that so far we have used only part of our forces in our battles and that we possess weapons we have not used as yet. The responsible source added that Israel certainly knows some of these weapons and perhaps does not know about the others. He said we have not used all our forces and weapons, because they have not been needed. Moreover, he said, some weapons have to be used in the appropriate place and at the appropriate time.

Damascus Radio Commentary

JN251510 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Israel violated the cease-fire in Lebanon once again yesterday when it attacked our forces, which are defending Lebanon and the Palestinian Revolution, and resumed its operations of mass annihilation against innocent people, the Palestinian Resistance and Syrian forces in Beirut. In these savage aggressions, Israel used all types of weapons in its possession and a major part of its military force.

Yesterday's treacherous aggression was a natural continuation of the abortive attempts the Zionist enemy has been making over the past 4 weeks to liquidate the Palestinian Resistance, carry out autonomy and subjugate Lebanon to the Camp David conspiracy. Although this Zionist aggression did not come as a surprise to us and was not an unusual event in the chain of Zionist acts of aggression since 4 June, the new violation of the cease-fire bears out the following facts:

First, the Zionist enemy insists on achieving its aggressive conspiratorial aims through the U.S. war machine and its old well-known methods. The enemy has ignored all international stands and efforts and has showed clear disregard for international public opinion.

Second, the Zionist enemy demonstrates clear disregard for international public opinion and continually resorts to methods of deception and procrastination to conceal its premeditated plans and aggressive means. The violation of the cease-fire has revealed the deceptive methods used by the Zionist enemy leaders to conceal their plans from the world public. They have clearly proved that force and aggression is the only language they want to use.

Third, the violation of the cease-fire has also revealed the dilemma in which the Zionist aggression has found itself. Thanks to the steadfastness of our valiant armed forces, the Palestinian Resistance forces and the Lebanese Nationalist Movement, the Zionist aggression has entered a new difficult phase in this dilemma. International condemnation of Israel has increased, and our steadfast fighters have managed through their heroic struggle to cope with the aggression. The U.S. Zionist war machine is challenged daily by our determined fighters. The enemy is sustaining heavy losses in personnel and materiel daily as a result of the heroic operations carried out by our fighters behind enemy lines. The crisis with the Zionist enemy is growing worse daily beyond all political and economic limits to the extent of clearly threatening the very Zionist existence.

Thus, the Zionist enemy could not find solutions to all these strangling crises except by further inflaming the situation in an attempt to break through the siege now surrounding it, the siege which it once wanted to mount around Beirut and all Lebanon. These are some of the facts that were revealed by the Zionist enemy's violation of the cease-fire.

Syria has restated the clear fact that it is firmly committed to defending Lebanon, the Palestinian Revolution and the whole Arab nation. Our valiant armed forces have confronted the arrogant Zionist aggression and firmly retaliated against this Israeli violation. Syria has categorically demonstrated its determination to confront any Zionist violation of the cease-fire with necessary force.Through this Israel will know that Syria can deter aggression and that it has military strength and moral power, represented by the steadfastness of its sons and the general backing of the Arab masses, to enable it to deter the enemy and foil its aggression.

At any rate, Syria has only used part of its power. The other part of this power is being kept for the appropriate time and place, and Syria can use it at the appropriate time and place when it becomes necessary to uproot Zionist aggression.

RABIN DISCUSSES PLAN FOR PLO WITHDRAWAL TO NORTH

TA250720 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman MK Yitzhaq Rabin by political correspondent Elimelekh Ram -- live in the Tel Aviv television studio]

[Text] [Question] Mr Rabin, how did the Israeli plan in Lebanon fail?

[Answer] I think the Israeli campaign in Lebanon had impressive military achievements, and there is no doubt that the IDF operated in a wonderful manner. However, there should be a political objective, or objectives, to a military operation. When we speak of the original, basic objective of securing the northern settlements by pushing the terrorists to a distance of 40 or 45 km -- in my opinion this objective has been achieved.

However, there was an idea among government figures -- and it is being expressed today in remarks by government officials -- of using the IDF to achieve far-reaching political objectives. We hear remarks such as: There will not be a single terrorist left in Lebanon; this year a strong Lebanese government will sign a peace treaty with us; all foreign forces, including the Syrians, will be removed from Lebanon.

In my opinion, the IDF's achievements will not make possible the attainment of these objectives. Given the developments in the area, it seems to me that we should first get away from the idea of far-reaching political objectives, as I have noted. Second, we should get out of the Beirut mess.

[Question -- interrupting] In other words, you are talking of a unilateral IDF withdrawal?

[Answer] No, I will say this in due course. Third, we should strictly maintain the Peace for Galilee campaign's original objective of safeguarding the northern settlements by guaranteeing a security zone to which the terrorists will under no conditions return. What do I mean? We should stop setting as an objective -- in light of which the political activity is being conducted and the military activity may resume -- the establishment of a strong government in Lebanon, the removal of all the terrorists from all of Lebanon, the removal of the Syrian Army from the places in which it is located in Lebanon. These are desirable objectives, but they do not have first priority today.

The first priority today is how we get out of the Beirut mess, and I will explain why. A situation has been created today that if the terrorists do not leave or are not removed from Beirut, a strong blow will be dealt to Israel regardless of how we got there. It seems to me that we should concentrate today on two major means of achieving this objective:

Tightening the siege -- I can live with the selective bombing of terrorist targets in Beirut. I can also live with water and electricity supply cutoffs as long as the noncombatants in west Beirut are allowed to get out of there. At the same time, the political conditions should be made more flexible. I do not understand what Ambassador Habib is doing in all the Arab countries, as if he were seeking shelter for them [the PLO]. There is simple, obvious shelter in Tripoli or even in the Lebanese Al-Baqa'. A third of Lebanon's territory is under Syrian control today. Thousands of terrorists are located there. Even if the terrorists from Beirut arrive in Latakia or Damascus they will be able to enter Lebanon. We should concentrate on this in the political negotiations. We should not let Habib run around (?forever). Let him sit down with Sarkis and convince him that the terrorists must be removed from Beirut and that the immediate place is Tripoli.

[Question] Do you rule out the military option?

[Answer] At this stage I think we have not exhausted the political option according to my formula -- not according to the formula that the terrorists must not go to Tripoli since this runs counter to our objective of having no terrorists left in Lebanon. Let us first get out of the Beirut mess today by removing the terrorists. Where to? This is of no importance at the moment. We should also emphasize political conditions, but I will not elaborate now. Later, we should focus on the basic objective of securing the northern settlements -- namely, creating this 40 or 45-km terrorist-free zone. We should stop adhering to the idea that it is possible, with the IDF's help, to impose a new order in Lebanon, to dictate to the terrorists and to the Syrians everything we want.

[Question] Do you see the evacuation of the terrorists to Tripoli or the Lebanese Al-Biqa' as the end of the campaign, or is this a stage toward their removal from all of Lebanon?

[Answer] Those who thought that by launching and expanding Operation Peace for Galilee one would resolve, once and for all, all problems, are making a mistake. This notion has been proven false so far. There are no easy solutions. If we undertook the operation with the goal of safeguarding the Galilee settlements, it is on this we should focus and not on illusions that with the IDF's power we will achieve a new order in Lebanon and perhaps in the entire Middle East.

'Senior' Minister Reacts

TA250723 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0515 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer -- live or recorded]

[Text] Israel apparently will reject the proposal that the terrorists be evacuated from Lebanon in stages: first from Beirut to Tripoli and the Al-Biqa' and, after the conclusion of the withdrawal of all foreign forces from this country, to several Arab countries. This is the impression I received last night in talks with ministers. The prime minister, the defense minister and Deputy Prime Minister David Levi during the past several days have already expressed their opposition to this idea.

It seems that MK Yitzhaq Rabin's statements on television last night will cause reverberations at the Cabinet session. The former prime minister, it will be recalled, proposed removing the terrorists to Al-Biqa' and Tripoli and to concentrate on achieving a 45-km demilitarized strip on Israel's northern border. A senior minister reacted to that proposal, saying: It is surprising that MK Rabin is proposing something that is unacceptable to the Governments of the United States, Israel and Lebanon, which are striving for the removal of all the terrorists from that country. The Gordian knot that MK Rabin spoke of, the senior minister said, began in 1976 when the Alignment government gave its agreement to the entry of the Syrians into Lebanon, and the government is now engaged in trying to untie this knot -- but not by means of interim arrangements, as Yitzhaq Rabin is proposing.

Government sources expressed the fear that moving the terrorists to Tripoli will transform that area into a center of terrorism and will not resolve the problem. Rabin's proposal somewhat legitimizes the continued presence of the terrorists in Lebanon, according to the senior minister.

It should be noted that in the past few days at least one minister has expressed support for this idea of a staged evacuation of the terrorists. The United States has not yet voiced its opinion, but the assessment is that if it became clear to the Americans that there is indeed a chance of getting the terrorists to leave Beirut in this way and that they are not raising the proposal for bargaining purposes, the United States would support the idea.

This morning's Cabinet session will hear reviews and assessments of the weekend's developments in Lebanon. The question of Soviet involvement in the introduction of SAM-8's into Lebanon and the downing of the Phantom will be examined. Political sources assessed that the SAM's were not operated by the Soviets, but it appears they have recently decided on greater involvement in the region's events in order to demonstrate to their allies that they are doing something for them.

CABINET HOLDS SESSION ON LEBANON SITUATION

Meridor on Rabin Plan, SAM-8's

TA251256 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1245 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] The Israeli Cabinet knows of no Soviet involvement in the use of the SAM-8's in Lebanon yesterday. This was stated by Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor in reply to a question at the end of the Cabinet session less than an hour ago. During the Cabinet session the Cabinet ministers, Meridor commented, watched a film shot when the missile batteries were being destroyed by the air force.

In reaction to last night's remarks by MK Yitzhaq Rabin, the Government of Israel believes that Israel does not have a Gordian knot in Lebanon. This is what the Cabinet secretary said. Mr Meridor quoted from remarks by one of the ministers who had said that MK Rabin was not only in opposition to the Government of Israel but also to the Government of Lebanon, which had declared that it wanted to expel all the terrorists from its country.

Our political correspondent Gad Becker reports that today the Cabinet held a political and security discussion about what is occurring in Lebanon. It unanimously approved the incorporation of the Tehiya faction and the establishment of a ministry for science and development headed by Prof Yuval Ne'eman.

Syrian Intentions Viewed

TA251602 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Excerpts] Government circles today expressed the assessment that Syria is not looking for a renewed military escalation. The Cabinet today heard reports about the military and political situation and a debate ensued. Our political correspondent Gad Becker reports:

[Begin recording] After 4 days of military activity in Lebanon, the Cabinet today heard reports and examined the current situation. The view prevailing among government circles is that Syria is not looking for an additional military escalation in spite of the fire opened at the air force and the attack of the missile batteries. Among other things, this assessment is founded on an analysis of the public statements made by Damascus in the last few hours.

Referring to the bombardments of terrorist targets in Beirut, the Cabinet made plain that Israel will react with utmost severity at any firing by the terrorists. Israel does not think that these activities on its part are harmful to the political negotiations but to the contrary.

Jerusalem has not yet received any reports about the results of Philip Habib's talks in the Arab capitals. The ministers were told that the United States continues to announce that it believes in the chances of the negotiations. Government circles have voiced the assessment that Washington is very far from admitting that its political efforts are not bearing fruit. Habib will arrive in Jerusalem tomorrow evening and will confer with the prime minister on Tuesday.

As said, the prime minister will confer with Philip Habib in the middle of this week and the foreign minister will depart for Washington some time afterwards.

The Cabinet today approved his trip. The prime minister is expected to travel to Kinshasa, the Zairian capital. [end recording]

The Cabinet today also decided to enact a law raising the rate of value added tax to 15 percent and the collection of a 2 percent tax on the sale of securities on the stock exchange. These moves had to date been issued as regulations for a state of emergency. The Cabinet also endorsed the agreement on sharing the burden of the expenses due to Operation Peace for Galilee that was signed at the end of the week by the Treasury, the Histadrut and employers.

It was also decided to extend the validity of two other tax measures: tax on overseas travel to the tune of 600 Israeli shekels, which will be extended until 30 September, and the import tax will be extended until the end of March 1983.

No Syrian Escalation Foreseen

TA252018 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Israel will not agree to interim arrangements in Lebanon; the IDF will not withdraw from the territories it occupied until the PLO and the Syrians leave that country and a stable government is established there -- this was stated today by a senior political figure to our correspondent on defense affairs Ron Ben-Yishay. Reacting to MK Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks on television last night, the same figure said Rabin's proposal was nothing but an interim arrangement while the Israeli Government insists on a comprehensive settlement in Lebanon. According to this settlement, Israel would be ready to withdraw from the Beirut area after the terrorists have left the western part of the city. The IDF would remain in its positions on the Beirut-Damascus highway and in the Al-Biqa' area until the Syrians and the rest of the terrorists agree to leave all Lebanese territory. Our correspondent on defense affairs Ron Ben-Yishay reports from the studio on further details on the military situation at present.

[Ben-Yishay -- live] According to assessments by security figures -- voiced at the Cabinet session today -- Syria is not interested in esclating the fighting, neither in Al-Biqa' nor in other sectors. Reports carried by the Voice of Lebanon about huge convoys escorted by advisers from the Warsaw Pact countries have not been confirmed and are apparently false. The situation in the field calls for caution on the part of the Syrians, either because the IDF is stationed within cannon range of Damascus or because the Syrian ground forces do not currently possess an effective antiaircraft umbrella. This is also the reason why the Syrians will take pains not to use weapons which have not yet been used against us, as they declared yesterday.

They may be talking about surface-to-surface Scud missiles that carry 1 ton warheads to a maximum range of 300 km or they may be referring to SS-12 (Scaleboard) missiles which carry 1 ton warheads with a range of 900 km. With these missiles -- incidentally, they are not particularly accurate -- the Syrians may bombard anywhere in Israel.

A senior security figure today said if the Syrians tried that they should know that they would have to pay a very heavy price.

As for the Soviets, the security figures assess that the Soviet Union will in no way intervene in the fighting in Lebanon and it may even try to restrain the Syrians because were the fighting arena to expand and were an Israeli military threat posed to Damascus, the Soviet Union would be forced to intervene in some way and the Soviets do not want to do that.

The main Syrian activity in the Al-Biqa' area involves entrenching and repairing the positions hit last Thursday. Obviously, Damascus is also now reassessing the Soviet-made antiaircraft capability in light of the Israeli Air Force attack yesterday on the SAM-8's.

It emerges that the air force destroyed three launcher vehicles, each one of which carries four missiles, that is, three launcher vehicles rather than three missiles. Another launcher vehicle was hit but managed to drive away.

On the other hand, the happiness over our success in overcoming the SAM-8's was mixed with sadness over the downing of the Phantom and its crew. These pictures were taken yesterday and this morning near the place where the aircraft fell. It seems the plane burned for many hours after it was shot down and it even set vehicles in the vicinity ablaze. The Syrians announced that one of the members of the crew, the aircraft's commander, was killed. On the other hand, it is clear to the IDF that the two men were alive when they parachuted. It was generally quiet, relatively quiet, in Al-Biqa', today.

'Senior Official' on Compromise

TA260719 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 26 Jul 82 pp 1, 2

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Excerpts] Daily military pressure on the PLO in west Beirut can be expected to continue, it emerged from yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor, speaking to journalists after the Cabinet session, played down the recent incidents on the Syrian-Israeli front in Lebanon's Al-Biqa' Valley and along the Beirut-Damascus highway, noting that there have been "no infiltration or small-arms fire incidents, or almost no incidents, since Thursday."

The feeling of the Cabinet majority is that it would be stupid of Israel to demand less than what the U.S. and Lebanon are demanding -- complete PLO withdrawal from the Lebanese soil. "Rabin's statement -- suggesting that Israel should or could agree to less -- did us harm," said a senior Israeli official yesterday. But it is understood that some ministers support the Tripoli-Al-Biqa' withdrawal idea.

The senior official, however, indicated yesterday that the government might be willing to compromise to some degree on this point, "but only after the PLO leaves Beirut." The official said that while Begin has vowed that "not one terrorist shall remain on Lebanese soil," he did not limit himself in time.

Israel, he said, has agreed to a PLO withdrawal from Beirut "via the Al-Biqa' Valley." It is possible that once this process is set in motion, some PLO fighters might, as a temporary measure, stay in the Al-Biqa' for a limited time, he suggested.

The high official indicated that Israel will not move from the "pressure points" in central Lebanon -- near Beirut and on the Beirut-Damascus highway -- except as part of a second-stage agreement regarding "the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanese soil."

The official implied that the IDF will not move from these areas following a PLO withdrawal from Beirut, because control of these points must remain in Israeli hands as cards to be used in the negotiations with Syria to ensure Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon.

The senior official indicated that it is possible that a second-stage agreement with Syria will in fact be concluded in the form of separate Israeli-Lebanese and Syrian-Lebanese agreements because of Syrian embarrassment at concluding a direct Israel-Syria agreement.

SYRIA WARNED AGAINST ATTACK USING NEW WEAPONS

TA251031 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 25 Jul 82 pp 1, 15

[Report by Ya'aqov Erez and 'Oded Granot]

[Text] During the night senior IDF sources said that if the Syrians really go through with their threat to use modern weapons against Israel -- something likely to cause many losses -- Israel might use a counterstrike that would be several times more sharp and painful.

These sources said it was very possible that the Syrians were referring to their Scud surface-to-surface missiles. If they use such missiles against civilian population centers, the IDF will react vigorously against Syrian concentrations that are not far from the border, such as the Syrian capital, Damascus.

The IDF deployment in Lebanon threatens Damascus both from Lebanese territory and the Golan Heights. Israel has Lance surface-to-surface missiles and it would also be posssible to threaten Damascus with artillery fire, if there are military developments in the Lebanese Al-Biqa' region that justify doing so.

The Syrian threat appears to be a verbal exhaustion of the options left to Damascus because of the complicated Syrian military situation -- a situation that makes it incumbent upon them to make use of almost all their army units and reserve forces in the framework of their deployment on the Golan Heights and in Lebanon.

For the moment it is estimated that the Syrians are not interested in a comprehensive confrontation with Israel. Hence, they have been careful so far not to open a "second front" against the IDF on the Golan Heights.

However, from the announcement by the Damascus radio commentator yesterday it emerges that Damascus has, on the surface, turned down U.S. mediator Philip Habib's demand [tevi'a] that they stop the terrorists from setting out on actions against the IDF from Syrian-held territory in Lebanon. According to the commentator, Syria will not defend the "invasion forces" [of Israel] in Lebanon, and "while a conquest by these forces is taking place, it is only natural that opposition should arise by various elements within Lebanon."

If the Syrians mean what the Radio Damascus commentator said, it appears that the Syrian Army is prepared to continue the fighting with the IDF in Lebanon while for the moment there are no signs of any intention by it to expand the battlezone.

The announcement by the senior Syrian officer yesterday was accompanied by an announcement by the Syrian military spokesman, who stated that Syria would return "surprising blows" to Israel if the latter continued to violate the cease-fire and cause Israelis "greater losses than they expect."

Using a different tone than that of the Syrian warning, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was quoted yesterday, at the end of a meeting with U.S. congressmen, as saying that his country was interested in a "fair and honored" peace in the area, calling for the United States to end its support of Israel.

Official Israeli sources said this morning the IDF had no reports about a reinforcement of the Syrian forces in the Al-Biqa' region and in northern Lebanon. These reports were published yesterday by the Phalangist radio station in Beirut. It was also reported that experts from Warsaw Pact countries had arrived in Syria to help rehabilitate the forces that had been hit and to help operate complicated units.

Israel has no reports that the missiles which were fired at the Phantom downed yesterday in eastern Lebanon were fired by Soviet operators. At the same time, it is being pointed out that the Soviet Union has recently supplied Syria with its most modern missile systems, SAM-8's that were destroyed yesterday in Lebanon.

The possibility cannot be dismissed that Soviet technicians and instructors also arrived with these missiles and perhaps some of them accompanied the missile systems into Lebanon. There is no confirmation of this evaluation.

During the night no reports were received of firing incidents in the various Lebanese sectors. This morning it was reported that it was calm during the night.

SHARON SAYS NO DAMASCUS ATTACK PLANNED

TA251606 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] The defense minister has said that Israel has no intention whatsoever of fighting Syria and that it has no plans to attack Damascus. The defense minister told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that our wish is that the Syrians do not shoot and do not open fire on us. Our correspondent in the Knesset Gil'ad Mishori has learned that reacting to Yitzhaq Rabin's remarks the defense minister said there is no Gordian knot in Lebanon. It is not we who are besieged in Beirut but the terrorists and they are the ones in a difficult situation.

In reaction, MK Abba Eban said he would feel easier were he to notice a flicker of concern in the defense minister. According to Eban, the situation is not regarded as a Gordian knot by one person but rather by an entire camp. MK Yosi Sarid said a commission of inquiry must be established at the end of the war to examine how a war scheduled to last 24 hours in an area extending 40 km evolved in such a way that we are still in the midst of fighting it. He called on the government to do everything possible to bring about a disengagement of forces.

'Enemy' Losses Noted

TA251720 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] The defense minister has disclosed that the IDF destroyed 72 T-62 tanks in the northern Al-Biqa' last Thursday, as well as 18 armored personnel carriers, 2 mobile tanks and 9 other vehicles. Six T-34 tanks, 7 cannons and an arms depot were destroyed in Beirut.

Sharon made these disclosures at a meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committeee. He noted that there had been ceaseless terrorist activities in the eastern sector and there had been 75 sabotage attempts. In the Beirut area, too, the terrorists tried to perpetrate acts of terrorism. According to Sharon, civilians had not been hit in west Beirut and the PLO's announcements to this effect were false.

The defense minister emphasized that we were not the ones embroiled in Beirut but Syria and the terrorists. According to him, there is no evidence in the field to prove the involvement of Soviet soldiers or troops from other Warsaw Pact countries in the recent battles in Lebanon.

SHAMIR INTERVIEWED ON LEBANESE POLITICAL TALKS

TA231506 Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Interview with Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by MA'ARIV political correspondent Ilan Kfir, YEDI'OT AHARONOT correspondent Shlomo Naqdimon, and IDF radio political correspondent Gad Becker, with YEDI'OT AHARONOT commentator Yehsa'yahu Ben-Porat as moderator -- live in the studio]

[Excerpts] [Question] Mr Minister, my first question may not be the most important one asked today; nevertheless, it is no doubt one of the more intriguing ones raised this week. You were gone for 2 days this week. Where did you disappear to? Where were you, Mr Minister?

[Answer] I am sorry; I am not able to give you a satisfactory answer. At times I have the opportunity to hold meetings about which I cannot make statements and which I cannot talk about right after they take place. We will have to wait until we can announce something about those talks.

[Question] Could you at least confirm the press report that you were in one or two European capitals?

[Answer] More or less.

[Question] And I assume the meetings were naturally connected with the situation and concerned topical issues, did they not?

[Answer] Well, if you persist in interrogating me, clearly the present events are the focal point of our attention and activity.

[Question] Just a correction: We are not interrogating, Mr Minister. We are merely asking questions.

Mr Shamir, we have experienced 24 hours of military activity, largely on the IDF's initiative in Lebanon. Yesterday there was extensive activity against the Syrians and the terrorists, and today, too, we heard about an attack on Beirut. First, why was there a need to bomb Beirut again today? Second, do you believe the military activity yesterday will continue, or do you think the Israeli message fell on attentive ears and will be sufficient?

[Answer] First, allow me to correct you somewhat: We did not bomb Beirut. The IDF bombarded selected terrorist targets in the Beirut vicinity, but neither the city of Beirut nor its population was bombed.

In theory, today we are observing a cease-fire, which actually constitutes the same time-out, pause, and opportunity we have given U.S. mediator Philip Habib, to try and find a political solution to the problem of the evacuation of the terrorists from Beirut. We announced a cease-fire many times and honored it; but both the Syrians and the terrorists exploited that situation to continue to shoot, shell, and sometimes even hit our soldiers. We decided, therefore, once and for all to issue to them a grave warning and tell them that they must maintain a cease-fire not only in theory but also in practice. We achieved this through our operation yesterday and today. If they stop their fire, no fire will be returned; if they continue, we will attack with all the force we can use.

[Question] Yet the impression was formed that, at least in Beirut, the IDF operation went even beyond reacting to the cease-fire violations and was perhaps aimed at intensifying the military pressure on the terrorists, and maybe it was a more overt hint that the military option might be used in Beirut.

[Answer] We have not eased the pressure, nor have we alleviated it for even 1 day. We are continuing to pressure in this way until they (?evacuate).

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, last week great publicity was given to the report that you might soon leave for the United States. Have you already decided to go? And what will be your goals on this mission?

[Answer] I may leave in the next few days for the United States to meet with the new secretary of state, Mr Shultz. No exact date has been set yet, and it will probably be set within the next few hours or days. It is only natural, now that the secretary has taken office and the time is so significant -- and there are so many important problems pending for discussion and decision -- that I should be able to meet with him and talk to him and reach some sort of understanding in these important days.

[Question] During your visit will you also meet with President Reagan?

[Answer] The purpose of my trip is in fact to meet with the secretary. There may also be some additional meetings.

[Question] As we have seen, Beirut is at the center of interest, and this will be the case until the problem is resolved either way. However, Mr Foreign Minister, many people have been intrigued by the question of whether or not we have not actually been giving ourselves a bad deal in waiting and in not carrying out the final military move in Beirut immediately as part of the momentum of the war. Would it be correct to say that we would actually have entered Beirut were it not for the personal appeal by former Secretary of State Alexander Haig, who sent an emotional message to the prime minister saying: I am asking you as your friend Haig, not as the secretary of state, not to enter Beirut?

[Answer] At that point and juncture in the Peace for Galilee campaign there were various considerations. There were various appeals and messages, and one cannot point to this message or that appeal and say that they determined the decisions and the course of events. One thing, however, is clear; we have to date not finished the operation because we are avoiding entering west Beirut, and this is out of a concern not to cause too many casualties either to ourselves or to the civilian population of Beirut. This is a problem, one which we have to face and struggle with; therefore, we prefer a political solution. We are seeking and giving the chance for a political solution, yet it is clear to all that if that solution is not found, and if the pressure does not help, we will have to resort to other means.

[Question] Do you not think that in the Lebanese Government's talks with the United States, the former's interlocutor is led by the nose by the terrorists?

[Answer] There can be no talk of leading by the nose. We know the terrorists wish to remain in Beirut. Even though they occasionally say they will leave -- saying this either outrightly or half-heartedly -- to date it is not 100 percent clear whether or not they have come to realize that their fate has been determined and they must leave Beirut. Therefore, one cannot talk about leading by the nose in this context; one cannot say anything of this sort about the Lebanese Government because it has its own thinking. We have avoided adopting stronger measures, and we did so only out of consideration and thoughtfulness, for humane and political reasons.

[Question] Mr Minister, somewhere there is the feeling that we are to some extent pulling the wool over our own eyes, with the Cabinet continually saying we will not accept a war of attrition, whereas we are already embroiled in one -- even if one recoils from calling it by name. A case in point is the operation that took place yesterday, and it was important, large-scale and successful, and today the shooting continues.

[Answer] Obviously certain conditions are created when there is a cease-fire that is not really a cease-fire. This can be called either attrition or any other name, but what the Cabinet is doing is trying to avoid such a situation and avoid its continuation. We have been signaling in the clearest possible manner that we will not allow this situation to prevail.

[Question] The prime minister said last Saturday night that the terrorists in Beirut do not have 30 days, but a week has already passed, which means that only 3 weeks or so are left. Is that correct?

[Answer] I would not look at the calendar when discussing such serious and significant problems, but it is true that time is a very important factor.

[Question] Mr Shamir, you are talking about the time factor, but we remember that the issue of the efforts to bring about a political solution began with a U.S. request for 48 hours to try and resolve the problem and not to enter Beirut, because the United States would achieve a solution. Since then some 3 weeks have elapsed, perhaps a bit more. How important is the time factor? Some have been saying that it is we who are sitting there, and since we are not the ones under siege, we have all the time in the world; but, on the other hand, we have been witnessing all sorts of developments -- Haig resigned and there is talk that the PLO will be recognized. How do you view this question of time?

[Answer] Well, the time factor is most important, but I would not say we are under any special pressure or that we are extremely limited by time. However, clearly we must take our friend the United States into account, as we have been doing. It seems to me this is the first time Israel has carried out a military option out of its own considerations, for its own safety and interests, and that there is full understanding between Israel and the United States on the operation's objectives.

[Question] Is there no erosion of this agreement [haskama] on the part of the United States?

[Answer] There is no erosion so far as the objective is concerned. It is as completely clear today as it was yesterday -- and I hope it will remain so tomorrow as well -- that the objectives of Operation Peace for Galilee as they appear today are shared by us, Israel, the United States, and the Lebanese Government. The objectives are well known, and there are three: the removal of the terrorists from Beirut and Lebanon; the establishment of an independent and strong Lebanese Government; and the expulsion of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Here we are crossing an iron bridge of joint policy, shared by us and the United States.

[Question] But will this bridge not lead, or could it not ultimately lead, to a possible U.S. recognition of some sort of the PLO, and result in direct contacts between the United States and the PLO? The media, for instance, has mentioned incessant hints and signals at such a possibility -- or danger.

[Answer] First of all, let us admit the advantage we have in the form of the bridge of common objectives. We believe this is a most significant political asset, the value of which should not be underrated. As for the various rumors on contacts or some sort of revision in the U.S. attitude toward the PLO -- this is not new. These rumors have been rife for a long time now, and here and there these rumors have been supported by facts in the form of some sort of verbal expression -- usually an unofficial U.S. figure -- but to date there has been no official confirmation of these reports, and it is clear to me that the administration has not altered its basic position on its attitude to this subject.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, in light of the Begin-Lewis meeting and the detailed report on the meeting between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia and Syria, can one not reach the conclusion that Philip Habib's mission has actually failed?

And if so, why should Israel be interested in allowing Habib to continue to carry out shuttle trips in the area? Has the precedent set by the missile affair not taught us a lesson?

[Answer] The precedent was a precedent, but it does not necessarily have to be repeated very time. The U.S. position and explanation -- as they explained things in the meeting you mentioned as well -- is that the moves have not yet ended and that Philip Habib's mission has not failed. The United States is convinced it still has a chance. Naturally, we can have differing evaluations, but we are aware of the state of affairs. We are aware of the protagonists active in this sphere, but the U.S. position to date is that there are still chances. There is something to work on, and one should not yet undertake extremist moves.

[Question] Does Israel share this assessment that there is such a chance?

[Answer] Obviously we have our doubts, but out of consideration for the U.S. position, we have given it some more time.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, when you say we are giving the United States some more time, have you not discerned some signs of impatience with the Americans themselves? Look, in the last few days a report was published on the conversation your colleague the defense minister held with Philip Habib in Beirut, which by all indications seems to have been a very tough one. Does this not also point to some sort of impatience on our part toward the constant procrastination?

[Answer] Clearly we would like to end the war as soon as possible. Not one of us is interested in a prolonged war. We would like to bring our soldiers back home. We would like to end this fighting and get down to the resolution of the political problem, which will no doubt be great, after the fighting subsides. Therefore there is absolutely no doubt -- and this is understandable -- that here and there some impatience exists, or what I would call a strong desire on our part to end this stage. On the other hand, the United Skates believes there still is a need to wait and try. This is its position.

[Question] I would like to raise another problem, but one which nonetheless is connected to everything that has thus far been discussed. Mr Minister, you have enumerated the objectives of the war before, and you said among other things -- as things have been repeatedly stated -- that the objective is the establishment of an independent and stable Lebanese government. This sounded very convincing as long as we did not meet with people there. But, in the footsteps of the IDF, many of us had the chance to visit Beirut and meet with Christians, Muslims, and various political elements. In broad terms, I would say the impression is that among themselves they harbor a deeply-rooted hatred -- and I would not like to point to any element as responsible. This is almost an all-encompassing phenomenon whereby they cannot stand each other and cannot envision the possibility that there would ever be a stable Lebanese government that could unite that country. So what gives rise to our hope that this objective could actually be attained?

[Answer] I suggest we not be too hasty. After all, the circumstances in Lebanon are known to us all and are not new. They existed even before 1975 -- after that war between the Lebanese and the terrorists -- and later between various Lebanese factions and the Syrians, and vice versa. Still, before 1975 there were governments in Lebanon. They changed often, but they existed, and they governed Lebanon in one form or another. It is clear to us that after Lebanon is freed from foreign pressure and there are no longer any more terrorists there -- with their terrorist ways and their control over Lebanese territory, and there is no longer a Syrian Army there with the cruel pressure it exerts -- then the Lebanese will have no other choice but to begin anew by their own power, to establish their own administration. Besides, according to information we have, there is an inclination among many Lebanese, regardless of their religious or partisan affiliation, to overcome their differences and try to set up a stable government.

In fact, there have been some encouraging signs to indicate this trend. I believe the moment the Beirut affair is over and the city is liberated, and the Lebanese Government is able to get down to organizing itself and presidential elections are held, a government will be established and the Lebanese people will begin to function as an independent nation. There will be problems and difficulties, and I think some help will be needed. I think the United States will help the Lebanese, and maybe we will also help if we are asked to do so. However, a Lebanese government will be established, survive and function.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, do you believe such a Lebanese government--hoping that it is indeed strong--would actually succeed in expelling the Syrians from Lebanon? Is there no fear that a situation may devalop in Lebanon of the Syrians being in the north and the Israelis being in the south, to all intents and purposes actually securing this central government of Lebanon?

[Answer] This burden and mission should not be put on the future Lebanese government. The Syrians must leave even at the stage in which the Lebanese government is organizing. It is crystal clear that we will not leave before the Syrians leave. This will be the pressure on them. We believe the Syrians will leave, as will we.

[Question] Mr Shamir, one of the outstanding questions in regard to the terrorists in Beirut and the question of whether or not they leave it, is the question of where they will go. First there was talk about Syria, but later it became obvious that the Syrians object to this. Could you give us some sort of picture of the current state of afffairs and whether or not there has been any change in the Syrian position? We have heard that Habib is once again leaving for a tour of some capitals. Are there other Arab countries prepared to absorb them?

[Answer] The truth is that the situation is fluid and unclear. Philip Habib, as everyone knows, left for a tour of various capitals for this purpose. There have been various rumors and evaluations, one being that Syria is prepared to accept some of the terrorists; there has been talk about other countries; and there are subsequent denials. However, I believe the basic, fundamental question is whether or not the terrorists are ready to leave. The moment they decide to leave, a destination will be found for them. This is the problem. If they tell the Syrians or the Egyptians, Saudis, Algerians, we want to leave, accept us -- then a place will be found for them.

[Question] Could the United States point to any substantial progress following the meeting, which I believe centered on this topic, between President Reagan and the Saudi and Syrian foreign ministers in Washington, a meeting about which a complete report was received in Jerusalem?

[Answer] It announced that some progress had been made but did not say it was substantial or serious progress, and indeed the efforts are still going on.

[Question] What do you think about the defense minister's suggestion to absorb some of the terrorists, certain terrorists whose hands are not covered with blood?

[Answer] The suggestion is fine, but it will probably not resolve the problem.

[Question] What will be done with the thousands of arrested terrorists in the camp the IDF set up?

[Answer] This truly is a problem we will have to struggle with, and one that we will resolve when the time comes.

[Question] A question I wanted to ask relates to an additional element that is looming over the area but whose involvement has not been felt, and this is the Soviet Union.

Can you explain the relatively passive conduct of the Soviet Union in the present war in Lebanon? Can one learn from ths that Soviet threats during the past two wars, in 1967 and in 1973, were threats of a paper tiger and no more than that?

[Answer] I would refrain from trying to interpret the Soviet position. If one wants to understand their position, one has to pose this question to them. However, I doubt whether they will give a truthful answer to such a question. I would also refrain from making comparisons, since there is no similarity between 1973 and 1982. There are differences between the two wars. Things have happened. There are apparently changes in the attitude toward the Arab elements in the arena, and there are also other international elements that carry some weight in the Soviet calculations.

[Question] Can one infer from your remarks that the Soviets are disappointed with or despair about their Arab allies?

[Answer] I said I would refrain from any judgment in these matters.

[Question] Were you surprised by the Soviets' conduct in this war?

[Answer] I was not surprised since we had a ssimilar assessment. We believed that, considering several factors, this time there would be no serious Soviet involvement.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, why is Israel, in fact, not aiming at direct negotiations with the Syrians, who are the permanent, stable element in Lebanon, except for Israel today? Is it not the right time for an Israeli initiative to try to reach a more expanded dialogue with the Syrians than has been the case to date?

[Answer] As is known, Israel is interested in reaching an agreement with all its neighbors, and Syria is not an exception here. However, in order to reach this, it is not enough to aim at this. There should also be a desire on both sides to reach this.

[Question] Mr Shamir there is a great deal of talk today on the issue of UN Resolution 242, on some change in this resolution that will enable the PLO to accept the resolution, and which will turn this organization, at least on the surface of things, into a more political element. Does this initiative, which is being promoted especially by France and Egypt, stand a practical chance? Is the U.S. position on this issue clear to us?

[Answer] We view a grave danger inherent in this attempt to change Resolution 242 and introduce into it extraneous elements running counter to its spirit and essence. We hope the United States will prevent this move. I do not think it can aid any solution or any calming in the region.

[Question] Are we, however, prepared to challenge any PLO moderation, even if it is on the face of things, which will certainly be welcomed by a large part of the world?

[Answer] This is not new. For years now there have been rumors and whispers about moderation of the PLO or parts of the PLO, and up until today nothing has come of this. Only today or yesterday I read about a news conference with 'Isam as-Sartawi. This is the man who serves as an organ for all those signals of moderation, and it was indeed astonishing that he was sitting in the news conference with the person who was a major general in the IDF [SHELLI activist Matihyahu Peled] and said more or less that we were the ones who organized the assassination attempt against [Israeli Ambassador to London] Argov, that it is our Mosad that organized all the assassination attempts against Jews in Europe. The Israeli who sat next to him did not open his mouth, and, as it were, agreed to the remarks. This is only an illustration of this moderation.

[Question] Some claim the developments in the war and especially the delays about the breaking into or not breaking into west Beirut has dealt the PLO a military defeat but granted it considerable political achievements. Are you, as foreign minister, a party to this assessment?

[Answer] I would not speak of political gains, but they have certainly won a great deal of publicity here, since eyes are directed at Beirut and the PLO and 'Arafat who sit in Beirut. However, all this will pass when the siege of Beirut ends and the PLO leaves.

[Question] Mr Foreign Minister, for some time now there have been no contacts between Israel and Egypt on current issues, including the autonomy and normalization issues. Why don't you initiate a meeting with your Egyptian counterpart, General 'Ali, to promote talks on these subjects? If I am not mistaken, currently you and General 'Ali have agreed to meet to discuss Israel-Egyptian issues once every 3 months.

[Answer] You have a good memory, and it is true the time for such a meeting is coming soon. We will see how things develop, but I must say the contacts have weakened, but this is not our fault. The Egyptians were the ones who stopped the contacts. They slowed normalization in a most extreme way once the Peace for Galilee Operation began, and today they do not want to hear anything about any kinds of moves in the realm of the autonomy negotiations. As everyone knows, it takes two to hold meetings and negotiations. Weare ready, but they stopped it for their own reasons, of which we are aware and knowledgeable. We know all the problems they are facing. Ultimately we must also remember that the main thing in the fabric of relations between us and Egypt has not been harmed, and that is peace.

[Question] How would you define President Mubarak's attitude toward Israel throughout the war? Some publications, particularly from foreign and Arab sources, said that the Egyptians hinted at certain stages of the war that if Israel went so far as, for example, to enter Beirut, Egypt would consider taking such diplomatic steps as recalling the ambassador. Have ramifications of this threat or this activity reached Jerusalem?

[Answer] We have been following very closely everything that has been said and done in Egypt in general, and particularly with regard to the relations with us, and I said that there are some negative expressions -- the media for example have sometimes expressed wild hostility toward Israel. There have been certain declarations -- pronouncements made by Egyptian state figures against Israel's positions. Sometimes these were more extremist, sometimes less. We have taken notice of all these and also replied to them. We have been making contacts. There are contacts between our ambassador and the Egyptian leaders. I also wrote a message and got a reply to it. There are contacts, but I believe that ultimately and in principle the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty stands.

[Question] The prime minister will leave for a visit to Zaire in Africa shortly. First, could you tell us what is expected from this visit? And secondly, what is all the rush? Why leave just now at the peak of the crisis, whose solution still does not appear to be attainable?

[Answer] The prime minister was invited by Zairian President Mobutu to pay a state visit to Zaire, to Kinshasa, and the date was set before the Peace for Galilee Operation began. There is great interest in this contact, this personal meeting. The relationships between us and our policy in Africa as well as theirs should be planned, as should all the issues pertaining to the relations between us and the entire African continent. Despite the centrality of the Peace for Galilee Operation, I do not think all other state affairs should come to a halt or be paralyzed. The state must continue to operate.

[Question] Will this visit to Kinshasa involve discussion of new bilateral issues, or will it focus on trying to deal with new aspects of expanding our relations with the Black continent and additional countries there?

[Answer] This will be a free conversation between the representative of Zaire and the prime minister. They will find the appropriate issues to discuss, they will make decisions and reach resolutions. It is hard at this point to state precisely on what the conversation will focus.

[Question] One more question on foreign affairs, Mr Foreign Minister, after which we will revert to internal political and partisan problems, for myself, despite my partiality to European and French affairs, I have not been able to explain the cause of the deterioration in France's attitude toward us. You are an expert on European affairs, and particularly French affairs -- you have many friends there. Perhaps you could explain it to us.

[Answer] I would not call myself an expert, but I must admit that even I am faced with a riddle. The relations between us and France, which were substantially improved after President Mitterrand assumed power -- even though the differences of opinion in principle persisted -- all of a sudden developed this schism, which is amazing in its extremity. None of us ever expected such extremist reactions or a position that distinctly favors saving the PLO, guaranteeing its existence and raising the slogan that the PLO's existence is necessary and vital for peace in the Middle East. This is a motto whose entire essence is in conflict with the existing circumstances and reality there. It is difficult to argue with this motto because it is so radical. I hope it will pass. This is my only hope. Such fly-by-night slogans, for which no reasonable, sensible basis can be found, must be ephemeral and disappear.

[Question] Still, how would you explain the fact that the French have reached such an extremism, where at a certain stage of the negotiations they were the element that prompted the PLO not to leave Beirut and to continue to fight from inside the city?

[Answer] This is the extremist position, and I can only say that perhaps some extremity has always been in the nature of French policy, and I can even say this was true even when they were as far as possible from having good relations with us. Even then there was a certain extremism.

HARIF: BEGIN GAVE U.S. WARNING OF IDF ATTACK

TA231052 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Jul 82 p 14

[Yosef Harif commentary: "The Argument With the U.S. Ambassador About West Beirut Was Overshadowed by Israel's Warning to Damascus"]

[Text] At the peak of the prime minister's and defense minister's talk with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis on Wednesday evening, 21 July, the exchanges between them were swallowed up in the noise of helicopters landing close to the government compound.

A few minutes after that, while the talk with the ambassador was still continuing, those "helicopter arrivals" made their way to the prime minister's office floor and entered the meeting room next to Mr Begin's office. They were Chief of Staff Lt Gen Refa'el Eytan; his deputy, Maj Gen Moshe Levi; Maj Gen Yehoshu'a Sagi, the head of the IDF Intelligence Branch; Maj Gen Avraham Tamir, the defense minister's adviser on national security affairs; aides-de-camp and other aides carrying maps in their hands -- a respectable group, a visit by which generally presages the occurrence of something unusual.

In the prime minister's office the talk with the ambassador continued. The ambassador had, on the surface, come to report on President Reagan's meeting with the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers on the terrorists' evacuation from Lebanon. From the beginning it was clear that Lewis had no fresh news. In fact, he had come with nothing; that is, with a repeated appeal to Israel to continue to show restraint because the chance of removing the terrorists through political measures was not lost. He also commented on the fact that Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon had not made things any easier for envoy Habib in his difficult task. Ambassador Lewis mentioned the talk between the pair on Monday, 19 July, a talk described by Habib's superiors -- in view of the report he had sent to the White House -- as a "difficult talk." Then the prime minister reacted as he did (Begin proposed that no notice should be taken of the defense minister's "tone," which could be understood as an expression of the restrained protest over the way the negotiations for the terrorists' removal are being conducted by Philip Habib, but to what had actually been said by Minister Sharon at that talk).

"The main thing right now," the prime minister stated very vigorously indeed, "is another matter...."

And Lewis heard what the matter was: The prime minister disclosed to him that five soldiers had been killed at dawn in an ambush by terrorists working from behind Syrian lines in the eastern sector of Lebanon. Let it be clear -- Begin said firmly -- that we regard the Syrians, no less than the terrorists, as responsible for this. "When the Syrians do not want, so experience has taught us," "Begin stated, "the terrorists do not act from the territory under Syrian control and they should have put a muzzle on the terrorists' lust to kill."

It seems that Begin's firm remarks did not require any further interpretations. This was a final warning to Damascus, and the United States was asked to pass it on. It was also a "warning" to the Americans not to expect unlimited restraint from Israel when its soldiers were being hit daily in Lebanon, despite the "cease-fire." It turns out that if Ambassador Lewis had concluded, on the basis of what he had heard from Begin, that Israel's patience was nearing its end because it was revolted by the trends in Habib's negotiations and by his planned moves over the next few days and that Israel might react in a way that appeared reasonable to it -- even regarding the Syrian lines providing the terrorists with cover, but not only toward them -- then the U.S. ambassador would not have been far wrong....

And, as though to illustrate what the remarks could be about, Lewis, coincidentally or not, was "met" by the groups of "professionals" who were sitting pouring over their maps in the next room. If, during the entire talk, the chief of staff and his colleagues were shut up in the next room, toward the ambassador's exit they were standing in the corridor leading to the prime minister's office. Lewis, who was leaving the office, thus saw faces he knew well -- a hint that was strong enough for him to need no other....

It is to be presumed that the prime minister's warning to the U.S. ambassador regarding Syria was received with full seriousness and gravity. Someone from the U.S. administration who reads the report by the ambassador to Israel about the talk with Begin and Sharon may want to assess that this grave warning applies equally to what is occurring in west Beirut. If he seeks to apply this equal judgment, then he will be walking on the firm ground of reality. Lewis at least has already learned to recognize "Begin's tone." This Wednesday Begin's tone was different from "Sharon's tone" -- Sharon who went Monday on Begin's mission to talk with envoy Philip Habib. When reading the report of that talk, it was said in Reagan's name that, "The President is not pleased with the talk."

It turns out that, from the exchanges between Sharon and Habib, it appeared to Reagan that Israel was not consistent in its positions. It is now demanding [doreshet] things it did not demand previously.

What was said at that "difficult talk," as the Americans described it, between Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon and envoy Habib (at that talk the minister was accompanied by the Foreign Ministry representative serving as something of an official Israeli representative in Lebanon, Moshe Arad, who is "permanently" stationed in Beirut)?

"Because we have not seen each other for 10 days now," Sharon began by saying to Habib, "it is important for me to explain several things to you which, perhaps because of the difficult task with which you are involved, you may have forgotten...."

From this statement we can learn that Jerusalem sees Habib as working on his own, in contacts with the Syrians and the terrorists, to find an arrangement for the terrorists' evacuation without Israel knowing what is going on. A few days previously three Israeli representatives had met with Habib (David Kimche, Yehoshu'a Sagi and Avraham Tamir), but they had not succeeded in getting him to say anything real. There was a clear impression that not only was there no progress in the negotiations, but apparently there was no longer any chance of any progress whatsoever. Therefore the prime minister, in consultation with the ministers of defense and foreign affairs, decided it would be worth explaining in the clearest fashion to Habib Israel's positions before President Reagan met with the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers.

Obviously here and there during the talk between Sharon and Habib there were concealed thorns, but everything was stated in a friendly manner and in a good spirit. If the Americans regard the talk as "difficult," it is apparently not because of how things were said, but because of what was said.

Before Habib tries to cook up what he sees as the desirable or possible arrangement for the terrorists' removal from Lebanon, the defense minister tried to explain exactly what the Israeli position is.

First: Israel will not retreat before the terrorists leave and it will not agree to the entry of an international force before all the terrorists leave.

Superficially, there is something of a change in this, because it had been agreed with Habib that the international force would enter after most or an appreciable portion of the terrorists leave west Beirut. However, this change came after Israel learned of various statements according to which the terrorists intend to leave small nuclei in camps in Beirut that will make possible the reorganization of the establishment after the Israeli withdrawal.

In order to prevent such an evil, Israel decided to demand [litbo's] that its forces remain until the total evacuation of the terrorists.

At the second stage, with the completion of the terrorists' evacuation, Israel must know how to wait until the establishment of a new government in Lebanon, following the elections that are supposed to be held in September.

In order for such a government to be able to organize itself and exist as it should, all foreign forces must leave Lebanon, including the terrorists' remnants (to be found in Tripoli and who are under Syrian rule). And if these -- the Syrians and the terrorists -- do not leave, Sharon emphasized to Habib, "neither will we leave."

It is clear that Habib leans toward making the Syrians' retreat easier. This is discernable from the defense minister's comment: "Mr Habib, we have nothing against Syria, but they wanted Haifa to be under their artillery or that of the terrorists under their command, and now Damascus, its airport and the city itself, are under our artillery. We have no belligerent intentions against the Syrians, but they must recognize reality. We have the ability to give something real in return for their departure -- our departure...."

Habib wondered how long Israel could remain in Lebanon. To this the defense minister answered: The nation of Israel, that has lived for more than 3,000 years, has learned suffering, but also patience.

The last stage of the arrangement, according to Sharon, should end with signing security and peace agreements. "And as far as concerns the security agreements for the 40-km security belt safeguarding northern Israel, we will not sign, Mr Habib, unless it is with a government of Lebanon." On this matter, the defense minister believes, we have learned from experience with the various interim agreements we have signed, concluding that a direct agreement is the best.

But all of this sounds like a tune for the future. In the meantime, Habib had no news or estimation about when an arrangement would be found, not even according to his ideas. All that he was able to say was that there were problems in finding "absorbing countries," ones that would agree to take in specified numbers of terrorists.

Sharon told him: Just look how cynical and hypocritical the "world" is. The Syrians tell the PLO to fight to the last man. Al-Qadhdhafi suggests that they commit suicide. A certain Arab government (he apparently meant Egypt) is only prepared to receive the terrorists' leadership. Mitterrand is prepared to receive only...Faruq Qaddumi. And not one of the enlightened leaders, such as Kreisky, whose hearts go out to the poor terrorists, is prepared to receive them. Only we, who have suffered from terrorists, have agreed to offer the terrorists a refuge until a permanent solution is found for them.

Habib: Is this a genuine offer?

Sharon: Definitely. I did not say this just in the town square (by the way, it is a pity you were not there, Mr Habib, at the Tel Aviv demonstration of solidarity with the Government of Israel. That was a more impressive occasion than has ever been...), and you know they will be safe with us....

Habib: I am sure of that....

But it seems that both sides understood that there was no point in exchanging compliments (Habib: Your word is as good as gold. But until you give a word of agreement...) on such an issue; therefore, they tried to move on to practical affairs, but there was no "getting down to business."

Sharon had his say, clearly and firmly, and Reagan "is not pleased."

And what is Habib proposing "practically?"

He would be prepared, so he says, to go to various capitals in the area (to Jerusalem, too) in order to examine the various possibilities....

It seems the Americans have also reached the obvious conclusion that there is no chance of removing the terrorists by political means, as was determined this week by Maj Gen Yehoshu'a Sagi, the head of the IDF Intelligence Branch; but if they [the Americans] were aware of Habib's failure, they could no longer complain about an Israeli military action and so they continue to pretend that it is within their power to bring about the terrorists' departure by political means.

In Jerusalem there is a growing feeling that what will ultimately push Israel into a military action is this U.S. delusion. Lewis went to report on President Reagan's talks with the Syrian and Saudi foreign ministers and proved that the Americans are conducting negotiations with themselves. It is a fact that for many weeks the Americans have not been able to point to any achievement whatsoever for themselves, and no progress whatsoever in the indirect negotiations with the terrorists. All the can say this week is that... Israel is piling up difficulties on the negotiating path. How? In the siege it has imposed on west Beirut....

This issue was also raised in President Reagan's message to the prime minister 2 weeks ago, accompanied by implied threats that if Israel does not permit regular supplies to west Beirut and if it prevents free passage for Philip Habib's deputy mediator (the former prime minister of Lebanon), the United States will have to study the use of "other ways."

Well, Begin did permit the mediator passage and the siege has been eased (in the prime minister's letter of reply to President Reagan, he comments, gritting his teeth: Is there one rule for a siege when other countries are entitled to impose it on an enemy and another rule for the State of Israel?) And what has Mr Habib achieved over all these weeks?

There is no place for illusions. The Americans have no political solution to the problem of west Beirut and they know their time is running out and they know their failure will lead to an Israeli military reaction. And is it conceivable that Israel should agree to tolerate a war of attrition? So they are trying in various ways to put the ball in the Israeli court: They claim that Arik "did not speak nicely" with Habib....They leak reports that the President is threatening Begin....And, so that not everything should be negative, they also say something "positive," that there are "new ideas" in the wake of the President's talk with the Arab foreign ministers....

If there is anybody spurring Israel on to a military action, it is the United States.

"Apparently there is a process that must be undergone before one makes difficult decisions," Defense Minister Ari'el Sharon stated this week to Likud Knesset members.

Apparently the Cabinet began preparing itself this week for "difficult decisions." This is for no other reason than that the United States has begun to "spread" something in this direction and it is against this background that it used the tactics intended to curb Israel. But these are tactics that could lead to a result opposite from that which Washington hopes to achieve: Instead of Israel continuing to restrain itself, it might conclude that time is against it.

This is because if the United States, instead of putting pressure on the PLO in its own ways, opts to put pressure on Israel, there is no longer any point in listening to its advice.

The Cabinet will make its own decision despite the U.S. "threats" of recognizing the PLO; all this contrived talk of the United States wanting to move closer to the PLO does not have to frighten anyone.

Which PLO is meant? The terrorist PLO which is the center of international terrorism (this has now been proved by "receipts" also placed on President Reagan's desk)? Will the United States recognize such a PLO? And if it is a question of a "political PLO" -- that is, Palestinians who will no longer use terrorism as means to resolve the Palestinian problem -- why should such a "PLO" be more frightening than just Palestinians?

And does anyone really believe that Yasir 'Arafat or George Habash will agree to turn themselves into a "political organization" and nothing more? Certainly there are people in Washington who in their hearts are still tied to the traditional Arabist concept according to which it is necessary to "speak" with the PLO -- but this has nothing to do with the problem of the removal of the terrorists from west Beirut. If the PLO is prepared to be a "political organization and win U.S. recognition, why does the PLO not say this frankly to the U.S. envoy?"

There are grounds to assume that the U.S. "tactics" will not soften Israel but, on the contrary, will stiffen its back.

The prime minister and the defense minister have shown patience because they do not think Israel's situation is pressed. It is not Israel, but the terrorists, that are now encircled. And the Syrians do not enjoy supreme status in Lebanon, when only 7 weeks ago they were in the position of having everything done as they wanted. Moreover, if they go on protecting terrorist squads, they will pay a heavy price.

This has been a week of despair: Not only was Habib not clever enough to make any progress in the negotiations over the terrorists' removal, neither did President Reagan succeed.

Why not?

Because the ups and downs in the U.S. position underscored its weakness. It is no secret that the terrorists were already at a breaking point -- involving departure from, if not flight from, Beirut. The United States always "interfered" at the wrong moment, stopping Israel from completing its work.

In a vivid description by Minister Sharon of his latest talk with Habib in one of the pleasant villas in the Lebanese hills, he spoke as though, by the way, of the atmosphere and of the fact that he and Habib would sit in rocking chairs and speak about the situation good-temperedly....

It seems there is something symbolic about this description, that is just the trouble; this is not a "swing for two," but each one rocking on his own....

ZE'EV SCHIFF ON WAR OF ATTRITION IN LEBANON

TA230933 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jul 82 pp 1, 2

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "In a War of Attrition"]

[Text] Everybody is warning against a war of attrition in Lebanon, but in fact we have already been involved in one for a long time. It may not have reached its peak, but the facts speak for themselves.

In the eastern sector alone there have been 75 violations of the cease-fire within 2 weeks; 10 IDF soldiers and 6 Lebanese children were killed and 13 soldiers were wounded. A war of attrition is also going on around Beirut and, despite the low level of firing, there are casualties even in these battles from time to time.

To this should be added other incidents that have occurred from time to time in other areas -- including within the territory controlled by the IDF -- as occurred on 21 July north of Tyre.

The target of the terrorists who are conducting the war of attrition is clear. They also want to extend the firing to outside Beirut, easing the pressure on the spot where it hurts them. They are interested in causing losses to the IDF and proving that despite the fact that they have lost their military infrastructure in the south, they are still capable of acting militarily. Therefore, they are not content with using their personnel inside the Syrian lines in the east, but are making every attempt to use squads in places that are, as it were, unexpected. This is how we are to understand the katyusha firing at Kibbutz She'ar Yashuv in Galilee and activities in other places.

The incidents in this war of attrition are being conducted in accordance with set rules, just as in wars of attrition we have experienced in the past: The enemy attacks our forces in minor incidents. The latter are becoming an increasingly long list. When the number of attacks rises, Israel reacts with great strength. This is what occurred yesterday when many forces were used against dozens of Syrian targets. It was not the Syrians who began the war of attrition, but the terrorists. On this matter, too, there are almost set rules: We react against the regular army from whose territory the attackers set out. The Israeli card in this case, as has happened in the past, is expanding a war of attrition into a larger war. It is clear that the way out of such a situation is not an arbitrary cease-fire, particularly when forces are in an "embrace" with each other, but a disengagement of forces or a broad political arrangement.

The main Israeli reaction was in the eastern sector, against the Syrians. However, the use of the air force in Beirut, after a break of several weeks, since 25 June, is worth noting. Minister Sharon decided on new and interesting borders this week for besieged Beirut, pointing out that our objectives are the refugee camps of Sabra, Shatila, Burj al-Barajinah and Al-Awza'i. The city [last word in English] northeast of them is outside the target. This, then, is a defined target, although it has already been publicized that most of the Palestinians and terrorists have actually found refuge for themselves in the city, behind the local population.

TRIPOLI MEETINGS PREPARE FOR OAU SUMMIT

Arrangements Discussed

LD231356 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] The secretary of the Peoples' Bureau for Foreign Liaison this morning conferred with OAU Secretary General Edem Kodjo and discussed arrangements and preparations for the convocation of the African summit conference in the Jamahiriyah.

Agenda Reviewed

LD241434 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] The brother secretary of the people's committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison this morning met in succession with Maria Amorim, foreign minister of Sao Tome and Principe; Paulo Jorge, Angolan foreign affairs minister; and [name indistinct], foreign minister of Madagascar.

During these meetings, agenda topics for the 39th African foreign ministers' conference and the methods and means of making this conference successful were reviewed. The ministers expressed satisfaction and appreciation for the preparations and measures taken by the Jamahiriyah to make this conference successful.

OAU FOREIGN MINISTERS TO MEET IN TRIPOLI 27 JULY

LD251636 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Jul (JANA) -- JANA has learned that it has been decided that the opening session of the 39th OAU foreign ministers conference will begin at 1030 on Tuesday at the People's Hall in Tripoli.

Ministers Arrive 25 July

LD251828 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Jul (JANA) -- Lameck Goma, Zambian foreign minister; Ishaya Audu, Nigerian foreign minister; and Robert Oukou, Kenyan foreign minister, arrived in Tripoli at noon today to participate in the 39th session of the OAU foreign ministers conference.

Beninese Minister Arrives

LD251848 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Tripoli, 25 Jul (JANA) -- Tiamiou Adjibabe, Beninese minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, arrived in Tripoli this afternoon to participate in the 39th session of the OAU foreign ministers conference.

In a statement to a JANA correspondent on his arrival at Tripoli International Airport, he said the 19th African summit will achieve a positive transformation on the path of African unity and will push the relations of economic and political cooperation in Africa toward the achievement of liberation and progress for the peoples of the continent.

Benin's foreign minister added that this conference will provide a good opportunity to discuss various problems facing the continent and to find solutions enabling the African peoples to achieve their aspirations.

ALGERIA

BENDJEDID, AL-QADHDHAFI HOLD TALKS 24 JULY

LD241245 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Excerpts] Leader of the Libyan revolution Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in Algiers today. He was welcomed at Houari Boumedienne International Airport by Chadli Bendjedid, president and party secretary general.

After a brief rest at the VIP lounge, the guest, who is accompanied by 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, left for People's Palace.

Talks began this afternoon at People's Palace between Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and President Chadli Bendjedid. Present on the Algerian side was Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister. On the Libyan side, 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki, Libyan permanent representative to the United Nations, attended the meeting.

At-Turayki Given Syrian Mission

LD241922 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Jul 82

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Jul (JANA) -- The leader of the revolution and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid held a meeting this afternoon at People's Palace in Algiers.

During the meeting, Dr 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki was entrusted with the task of going to Syria on a mission connected with the current Arab situation.

The brother leader returned to the Jamahiriyah this evening.

'HONEST BROKER' ROLE IN IRAN-IRAQ WAR ACCEPTED

NC251227 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Algiers, July 25 (AFP) -- Algeria is willing to play "honest broker" between Iran and Iraq and continue efforts initiated by the late Foreign Minister Mohamed Ben Yahia to end the 22-month old war in the Gulf.

Reliable sources here said last night that the Algerian role would not be one of mediator and no Algerian "shuttle diplomacy" could be expected in the immediate future in view of the upcoming Organisation of African Unity summit in Tripoli. The sources said Algeria would restrict itself at the outset to hearing the views of each side and conveying their proposals to the other party.

MESSAADIA, SOVIET AMBASSADOR DISCUSS LEBANON

LD252034 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and official in charge of the Central Committee Permanent Secretariat, this morning at Zayghut Yusuf Palace received the Soviet ambassador in Algiers. During the meeting, they reviewed relations between the two parties and countries. The two sides also touched on current international issues and matters concerning the Mediterranean. They affirmed that the serious situation which arose as a result of the Zionist invasion of Lebanon and the aggression against the Palestinian and Lebanese people has been aggravated by the imperialist collusion and military, material and political support for the Zionist occupation.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI SENDS LETTER TO LEBANESE LEADERS

LD241130 Tripoli JANA in English 0940 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] Tripoli, Shawal 4, July 24, Jamahiriyah News Agency -- The revolution's leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi sent the following letter to:

- Ilyas Sarkis
- Shafiq al-Wazzan
- Sa'ib Salam
- Rashid Karami
- Sulayman Franjiyah
- Walid Junblatt
- Muhsin Ibrahim
- Ina'm Ra'd
- Ibrahim Qulaylat
- Nabih Barri

On the occasion of 'Id al-Fitr, I congratulate you and reiterate the verse of the Arab poet:

Today, compatriots, is a day of festivities. Yet true festivities mean liberation and forcing the Jews to succumb...

I salute Lebanon today at a time when it is in the midst of an ordeal being experienced not for a Lebanese, but for an Arab cause...

In spite of its tribulations, Lebanon's ordeal is being daily falsified so that it may appear not to concern the country and its people, but to be of concern to the Palestinians, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation in particular... Yet the tragedy has affected all of Lebanon and its people... The campaign of extermination is aimed at Lebanon's Muslim people and the country's patriotic groups, whether they be political organisations or ordinary citizens.

The campaign is designed to first neutralise and finally destroy Lebanon. This is a clever and devious plan which is dangerous but has already been exposed... The plan has been revised because Lebanon is the refugee and the supporter of the Palestinian people... It is because of this that the enemy intentionally set upon the destruction of Lebanese cities inhabited by the Lebanese. It is for this that they have decided upon the annihilation of the people of Lebanon, especially the Muslim population...

The enemy Jews and the world should have known that, because of their method of organisation and modes of struggle, the Palestinian Resistance cannot be confined to one place alone, and cannot congregate in large numbers... They are a ubiquitous underground movement... They are in every place inside occupied Palestine... They are not now in the grip of the enemy, and the enemy is fully aware of this...

Therefore, the current siege is against the Lebanese people of Beirut and the present war is designed to exterminate the Lebanese people and their cities as revenge for the support they have given to the Palestinian Resistance... It is thus truly a war of vengeance against the Lebanese and not one of pursuit of the Palestinians...

What I would like to make clear beyond the vengeful siege of Beirut is this: It is imperative that a change should take place in political events. Such events up till now have been intentionally falsified to that this action may not appear to the world as aggression and the occupation of an independent state, the annihilation of its people (who are not the Palestinian people) and the confrontation of Lebanese citizens (who do not constitute the Palestinian Resistance movement).

Brethren, you should try and make clear to the world that the Lebanese people are the ones being annihilated, because they have from the outset been the true targets of this campaign. Fighting is taking place between Lebanese nationalists and the barbaric Israeli army.

The world should understand from you that this war is being waged to seek vengeance from you and to annihilate your people, although the enemy is trying hard to project it as a war against the Palestinians...

The enemy's attempts to falsify the situation are designed to deprive you from your right to resistance and your right as an independent state, upon which aggression has been committed, to take a position that is commensurate with your independent status.

Unfortunately, the enemy has succeeded in this up till now: It has succeeded in neutralising the army of the country upon which aggression has been committed...How, in the name of God, can this army remain neutral...? Why does not Lebanon call upon the Arab League to implement the Arab collective defence charter...? Why doesn't it call upon the Security Council and the United Nations to deal with the situation as one of war between the Lebanese and the Israelis, and that Lebanon, an independent and sovereign state, is now under military occupation?

What is being planned is not the ouster of the Palestinian Resistance from Beirut. The Resistance is not in Beirut. What they have there are only headquarters and offices. What is in fact being planned is the expulsion of the Lebanese people from their country so that they can be replaced by the Jews. The problem will not end with the evacuation of the Resistance's devastated offices and headquarters from Beirut. The presence of the Resistance depends on the presence of the people of Lebanon who support the Palestinian Resistance... What is being sought is the expulsion of the Lebanese people (especially the Muslim population who constitute three quarters of the Lebanese people). The operation is therefore designed to either exterminate or oust the Lebanese people from their country so that the Palestinian Resistance would no longer find support.

The Israelis are planning to acquire a monopoly of support for themselves alone in Lebanon. Such support will come from the isolationist group, which has tied its fate to that of the [word indistinct] much as the Lebanese Muslims and other nationalist groups have tied theirs to the Palestinian Resistance...

What then will the enemy do with [words indistinct] movement that resists it in Beirut, Zgharta and the Ash-Shuf region? Will the Israelis ignore them, fight them or forgive them...? Never... The fate of these Lebanese regions lies between extermination and evacuation of the Lebanese people from their country...

A new political stance will (?change) the course of events in Lebanon and end the falsification of the country's occupation. Such a stance has become both necessary and indeed a duty... This will give you a very important opportunity to exercise Lebanese legitimacy and patriotism... [words indistinct] capabilities to be used in the battle against the enemy...

The door to negotiations over Palestinian existence and related matters should be shut tightly by the Lebanese and Palestinians before the entire world. One indisputable position should also be made clear: that the foreign invasion of an independent country and the attempted annihiliation of a peaceful people shall be resisted... In this they will have the right to ask for any help, establish any alliance and seek all legitimate methods in self-defence. Apart from this, right will only be futile and the oppressed become defence and the Lebanese people will be rendered homeless... Lebanon will finally become Israeli...

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

STUDENTS ISSUE STATEMENT ON LEBANESE CRISIS

LD232004 Tripoli JANA in English 1758 GMT 23 Jul 82

["Students' Liaison Bureau statement"]

[Text] Tripoli, Shawal 3, July 23, Jamahiriyah News Agency -- The 30th anniversary of July 23rd come today when the Arab nation is facing the most dangerous imperialist-Zionist invasion led by the U.S.A. and its ally Zionism which are waging a destructive war aimed at destroying the Arab nation and building an aggressive entity through a religious and racial onslaught.

July 23rd revolution had led Arab masses to the confrontation of imperialist and Zionist schemes, headed by Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir.

Yet the triumphs of this revolution have been thwarted by stooge As-Sadat who became allied with America and the enemy to destroy the struggle of Egyptian Arab masses whom he tried to force into this alliance and imprison in the Camp David accords of treason and humiliation at a time when the enemy continues to wage its expansionist aggression against the Lebanese and Palestinian people.

However this aggressive invasion has been met with steadfastness and brave confrontation and reaffirmed Palestinian Revolution and Lebanese National Movement's determination to wage the battle of liberation against the enemy and to leave Beirut only towards Jerusalem to regain the usurped lands of Palestine.

As we hail this heroic stand, and as we hail the sacrifices the Palestinian and Lebanese masses, we also hail all the Arab masses who reject surrender and treason. We appeal to the Egyptian student movement to play its role in confronting the enemy, by boycotting it and by standing in the same trench with the Arab masses against the Zionist enemy and the U.S.A.

The Arab masses is the only body which has vested interest in taking the decision to confront the enemy and to reject all the suspicious surrenderist proposals promoted by the Saudi rulers, after getting American blessing.

All surrenderist "solutions" which are plotted behind the masses backs are doomed to fail and the price of treason and cowardice to going to be very high.

Any hand that dares sign any surrenderist treaty, will share the same fate that met As-Sadat.

The masses will win the next round and will march towards liberation and drive away the invaders building its unity on the relics of the traitors, agents and the crowns of humiliation and treason.

Signed, Student Liaison Bureau, the General Congress of the Students of the Jamahiriyah

COMMENTARY WARNS OF U.S.-ISRAELI PLANS

LD250224 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is a great historical farce that U.S. envoy Philip Habib should be received in Arab capitals and accorded a great friendly welcome and all hospitality when everyone knows that the United States provided the political and military cover for the Zionist invasion of Lebanon. It enabled the enemy to lay siege to Beirut and to put a stranglehold on the Palestinian Resistance. The United States killed 10,000 civilians and injured 25,000 others, while making more than 100,000 citizens homeless.

Accordingly, the United States is a basic element in the war against Lebanon and the Palestinian Resistence. It is a basic partner in the barbaric Zionist invation. It is never a neutral element whose envoy, Habib, should be received in Arab capitals and listened to by Arab rulers. How can the United States be the enemy and the judge at the same time? What does Habib want from the Arab capitals other than the imposition of defeat and surrender of them and the implementation of the U.S.-Zionist solution, that is, the pan-Arabization of the Camp David agreement, the disarming of the Palestinian Resistance and its transformation into a destitute political movement.

What sort of mediation is this, that tries to impose shame, disgrace and eternal humiliation and that works for the cause of seeing the Zionist flag raised over every Arab capital, as it is in Cairo? Habib wants to reap the political results of the barbaric Zionist invation of Lebanon, just as Henry Kissinger did following the 1973 war, which he turned into a historic calamity for the Arab nation, enabling the enemy to catch Egypt, the big fish in the Arabian sea, and fly the Zionist flag over Cairo skies and cause collapse of the Arab nation's structure.

The politcal results the enemy hopes to achieve from Habib's tour extend for beyong the framework of Lebanon and the Palestinian Resistance. The enemy also seeks to pan-Arabize the Camp David agreement and apply it to the entire Arab arena It seeks to normalize Arab-Zionist relations and to open the way to a tyrant Zionist invation, allowing the enemy to go even further in his barbaric aggression to embrace the rest of the Arab countries now that he has managed to impose his terms by dictating a new political arrangement in Lebanon; to destroy once and for all the Palestinian Resistance and begin other, even more barbaric, invations to make Amman and Damascus fall, to reach Mecca and Medina. This would make the Zionist dream of building an aggressive Zionist entity come true at the expense of the Arab nation.

Phili Habib seeks to rearrange Arab conditions to suit the U.S.-Zionist development and concept. He carries in his bag the final draft of the political map of the Arab homeland drawn up by the Zionists and the Americans, turning the area into a filthy Arab swamp subservient to Zionist domination and control on behalf of the United States. The enemy hopes that by destroying the Palestinian Resistance in the Arab homeland with the exception of the bulwark of Arab rejection -- the Great 1 September Revolution -- as a material and tangible movement and firm political and ideological principle. This makes the Jamahiriyah the target of the hostile Zionist-American-Reactionary move to finally destroy this bastion and bring it to its knees so that it will become part of this filthy reactionary Arab swamp. This makes it imperative that the Libyan Arab people not only mobilize their own human and material resources to confront the hostile and expansionist Zionist-U.S. Aggression but also deepen their noble roots and transform the jamahiriyzh into a launching base and rearguard for all the upright fighters in the Arab homeland and into a firm, strong ground for all the combatant Arabs and free revolutionaries.

The immediate necessity is to create the nucleus of a pan-Arab and uionist army -- an army mobilized politically, ideologically, intellectually and militarily -- to begin the revolutionary counterattack to cleanse the area of all traces of reactio, Zionism and U.S. imperialism and to reshape Arab reality as we would like it on a uionist, jamahiri [masses] and socialist basis, not as the United States and Philip Habib would like it.

To confront this era of Arab decline and collapse requires revolutionary and extraordinary action. This, in turn, requires a base -- a pan-Arab center and starting point. The Jamahiriyah has confirmed that it is this base, that it shoulders its responsib'lities to become the "Hanoi" of all Arabs. Our nation has not died yet.

It has not lost the energy of the young revolutionaries, who take the vow of death to begin the revolutionary counterattack from the land of the Jamahiriyah -- the Jamahiriyah of all Arabs and all free revolutionaries.

We do not say this as a figure of speech or as empty rhetorical one-upmanship. The real geographical and military map of the Arab homeland says this. Regrettably, all forward combat lines in the Arab east have fallen and the Jamahiriyah has become the only forward combat line. It is no longer a strategic depth of the battlefield but has become at this stage the heart of the battlefield. This battle should be fought with one pan-Arab instrument to mold the framework of Arab unity, which is baptized with blood. The unity of the revolutionaries and the fighters, the unity that is moist with sweat and blood, is the unity that can never collapse. Thus, it is the fate of this nation and its only choice.

ARAB LEAGUE STATEMENT ON SOMALIA CRITICIZED

LD242252 Tripoli Voice of Arab Homeland in Arabic 2015 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Statement issued 24 July by People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison]

[Text] The Arab League secretary general issued a statement on 22 July, in which he denounced what he called Ethiopian military aggression against Somalia. In view of the fact that the statement contains misrepresentations distorting the nature of events taking place in Somalia and is a disservice to Arab relations with a progressive and friendly African state, that has long affirmed its unwavering stand alongside the Arab right, and as the secretary general is not entitled to express political attitudes that do not emanate from Arab unanimity, the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front would like to clarify:

What is taking place in Somalia these days is a comprehensive popular revolution led by the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia against a reactionary and hireling regime. This regime's connections with U.S. imperialism and Zionism were established when it bestowed its blessings on the Camp David agreements, thus turning Somali territories into a U.S. military base that protects and serves U.S. interests deep in the Arab homeland and compliments the chain of bases spread in Sudan, Oman and Egypt.

Thus, the statement made by the Arab League's secretary general is considered a misrepresentation of Arab public opinion. It ignores the truth about events taking place in Somalia today. Haphazardly accusing a friendly African state of launching aggression against Somalia is an insult to an African state that has always affirmed its firm stand alongside Arab right. The secretary general should have made a close examination before it issued hasty judgments. He should not have been influenced by known Arab sides into adopting stands opposing Arab unanimity and harming the progress of Arab-African cooperation -- which, particularly now, is exposed to the most serious challenges.

Any political statement issued by the secretary general of the Arab League should express the viewpoints of all league members through prior consultation with them. Accordingly the Steadfastness and Confrontation Front considers the abovementioned statement of the secretary general as not expressing the viewpoint of the Arab League and a statement that, objectively interpreted, does not go beyond expressing the personal view of its author.

MOROCCO

GOVERNMENT FORCES INFLICT LOSSES ON 'MERCENARIES'

LD240012 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] On 22 July, a royal Moroccan military force on reconnaissance duty, and with an aerial observation capability, spotted a large column of mercenaries estimated at three army regiments in the vicinity of (Qum Elouegat) in the area of (Gueidah). The column was transported by Toyota jeeps supported by a mechanized corps and another corps equipped with T-54 and T-55 tanks and tank transporters.

The royal Moroccan military forces took the mercenaries by surprise and launched a strong attack against them. Fierce clashes ensued and lasted from 0545 to 0830. The mercenaries suffered heavy casualties and losses and were forced to flee toward the south and southwest.

During these battles, the royal Moroccan military forces destroyed five tanks, two rocket-launching bases and three jeeps and seized a large quantity of ammunition and hardware, including guns of the [words indistinct] type. They also seized antitank rockets and 7.62 caliber guns.

While running from the battlefield, the mercenaries left behind a large number of corpses. Two Moroccan soldiers were martyred, 11 others were injured and 1 jeep was damaged.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO CLAIMS BATTLE VICTORIES 19, 22 JULY

Control of Afrafir

NC231804 Paris AFP in English 1742 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Excerpt] Algiers, July 23 (AFP) -- The Polisario Front, fighting Morocco for control of the former Spanish Sahara, today claimed to have seized the small town of Afrafir, well inside a defence network set up by the Moroccan forces.

A statement published by the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic [SDAR] set up by the Polisario, said that 55 Moroccans had been killed in the battle for Afrafir, 90 kms (55 miles) during a battle on July 19. [sentence as received]

Smara Attack

LD260227 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] A communique issued by the SDAR Information Ministry says vanguards of the Saharan resistance attacked Moroccan expansionist forces stationed in Smara on Thursday. They engaged in a fierce, 3-and-1/2-hour battle in which 93 Moroccan soldiers were killed and a similar number were injured.

During the battle, 4 enemy tanks, 13 landrovers, 8 military trucks, 1 gun and other war equipment were destroyed. The Saharan communique notes that this is the third such attack on the occupied town of Smara and the eighth attack this past week against military installations of the occupation forces. The communique says this battle proves the Saharan Liberation Army is capable of carrying out successful operations against the enemy's so-called strategic defense triangle.

KENYA

HOSPITAL BOMBED IN SOMALIA-ETHIOPIA FIGHTING

EA231156 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] Warring parties in the ongoing Somalia-Ethiopia conflict have assured the government that there would be no more accidental bombing of targets on Kenyan territory.

The Northeastern provincial commissioner, Mr (Benson Kaaria), gave this assurance when he toured Mandera town yesterday to assess the damage caused by the recent bombing of Mandera hospital by the Somalia-Ethiopia combatants. He asked the Mandera residents to resume their daily chores without fear, as there would be no more bombings.

The provincial commissioner siad that Kenya is a friendly country to all its neighbors, and the bomb which hit the Mandera hospital kitchen pounded on a solar system killing one patient and injuring two hospital attendants. He again assured the residents that no more artillery would fly over Kenyan airspace.

Mr (Kaaria) inspected the demolished kitchen block and visited casualties in the hospital ward, who included two children. He wished them a quick recovery.

SOMALIA

SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCES U.S. ARMS DELIVERIES

EA241448 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1400 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] A Somali Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that, respecting and valuing the request by the Somalia Democratic Republic [SDR] Government to the friendly U.S. Government, after forces from Abyssinia and its allies launched their brazen aggression against Somali territory, the U.S. Government has decided to send urgent military assistance to our country. The delivery of the arms already has begun. They are being transported by air and sea.

The Somali Government and people express their thanks and appreciation for this highly-honored move by the U.S. Government, whose decision reads as follows:

In response to an urgent request by the Somali Government for assistance to confront the Ethiopian aggression on Somali territory, the U.S. Government has agreed to deliver expeditiously by air some military weapons needed by Somalia.

The arms delivery has already begun for immediate use by the Somali Armed Forces.

Commentary on U.S. Aid

EA251628 Mogadishu Domestic Service in Somali 1115 GMT 25 Jul 82

['Abd al-Qadir Nur Dere Commentary]

[Text] The military assistance given by the U.S. Government to the Somali Democratic Republic strengthens relations between the two friendly countries.

Relations between the Somali Democratic Republic and the U.S. Government have been improving since 1977. The relationship, based on friendship, mutual respect and all-round cooperation, was established when the two countries signed a friendship treaty in the United States.

However, the regimes in Addis Ababa and Tripoli, with their allies, embarked on activities aimed at undermining stability and security in the Horn of Africa and the region in general so as to mar this relationship. Since then, the Abyssinians and their cohorts have been carrying out provocative air and ground attacks on Somalia, causing hardship to and inflicting damage on Somalis. This dangerous practice angered the peace-loving people of the world, who called for the cessation of the ugly activities in the Horn of Africa -- which affect the African Continent and the world in general -- but to no avail.

The terrorist activities by the fascist Abyssinian regime and their cohorts against the people of Somalia culminated in the naked air and ground aggression against certain regions of the Somali Democratic Republic, which have been brazenly denied, despite reports by journalists and aerial photographs by satellites, proving their aggression and the damage they inflicted on the local inhabitants. This hideous practice caused concern to peace-loving governments, some of whom condemned it.

Thus, the U.S. Government, concerned over the unprovoked aggression against the Somali Democratic Republic, resolved to extend speedy military assistance by air and sea to the Somali Democratic Republic in compliance with a Somali Government request. There is no doubt, therefore, that the friendly U.S. decision will only serve to further strengthen the already cordial relations between the United States and an appreciative Somali Democratic Republic.

RADIO KULMIS CITES FORCED ARMY RECRUITMENT

EA232136 (Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] Reports from Bai, Bocol and Gedo regions say 35 people were killed when they tried to escape an attempt to forcefully recruit them into the army of Siad Barre.

The reports add that in Baidoa, regional capital of Bai, over 313 people have so far been forcefully recruited into the army. The reports say such a campaign of forcefully recruiting people into the army is going on throughout the country. The report says people are opposed to the recruitment drive and confrontations between the recruiting officers and the people are taking place throughout the country.

DFSS ASKS ARABS NOT TO AID SIAD BARRE REGIME

EA232100 (Clandestine) Radio Kulmis in Somali to Somalia 1800 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] A press release from the Democratic Front for the Salvation of Somalia [DFSS] calls on Arab nations and the Islamic world, particularly Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, not to extend any military, economic or diplomatic assistance to the declining self-interested regime of Mohamed Siad Barre.

The DFSS press release says the fighting now going on in many parts of Somalia is a people's uprising led by the DFSS against dictator Siad Barre. The revolutionary uprising of the broad masses is going on in 9 of Somalia's 16 regions. The struggling fighters are opposed to Mohamed Siad Barre's regime, which has killed the country's political, economic and social system. In the past 13 years, the broad masses of Somalia have been oppressed by the dictatorial regime.

The press release adds that Siad Barre's regime has openly violated human rights and has interfered in and wrongly interpreted the Islamic faith. The regime oppresses and continues to mistreat religious leaders.

Somalia today is an isolated nation and has no respect either in the region or in the rest of the world. The press release adds that whichever Arab nation aids the antinational regime of Mohamed Siad Barre undermines the interests and aspiration of the broad masses of Somalia. At the same time, such aid will spoil the centuries-old close relations between the Somali people and the Arab nations, especially Egypt and Saudi Arabia. The press release adds that any aid extended by the Arab countries to Mohamed Siad Barre's regime also will undermine long-term relations with the Arab world and Islam.

The DFSS press release concludes that any form of assistance extended to Mohamed Siad Barre's regime will endanger peace and stability in the region because dictator Siad Barre will attempt to internationalize this internal situation, that affects only Somalia.

UGANDA

OPPOSITION LEADER SAYS 20 CIVILIANS KILLED

AB201619 Paris AFP in English 1458 GMT 20 Jul 82

[Text] Kampala, July 20 (AFP) -- Uganda's opposition Democratic Party Paul Semogerere was today quoted as saying that 20 civilians were killed in one week by security forces in the Kasanje area, south of Kampala.

According to the Kampala vernacular daily MUNNO, Mr Semogerere said in a letter to Ugandan President Milton Obote that the situation in the area, which is within the opposition leader's parliamentary constituency, was grave. He appealed to the president for immediate action to halt insecurity in Kasanje.

Mr Semogerere said in the letter that a girls' school in the area had been closed down due to the insecurity and that many residents of Kasanje were either arrested or missing.

BRIEFS

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS EASED -- With effect from today, there will be no need for persons wishing to travel outside Uganda to seek clearance from the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Intending travelers are, however, reminded that they should comply with entry requirements of the relevant countries to avoid inconvenience on arrival. But, in a statement issued this morning, the minister of internal affairs, Dr Luwuliza Kirunda, stressed that clearance of motor vehicles by the Ministries of Finance and Internal Affairs are still in force. [Text] [Kampala Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 21 Jul 82 EA]

CHAD

COUNCIL INVITED TO SEND DELEGATION TO OAU SUMMIT

AB250828 Paris AFP in English 1327 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] Ndjamena, July 24 (AFP) -- The Council of State headed by northern Chad leader Hissein Habre has been invited by Libya to send a delegation to the Organization of African Unity summit in Tripoli next month, an unofficial source said here today.

Mr Habre's Armed Forces of the North control roughly half of Chad since capturing Ndjamena at the beginning of last June. Eighteen months before, they had been chased out of the capital by Libyan troops called in by then Chadian President Goukouni Oueddei.

A communique issued after the Council of State's regular meeting this week said the question of participation at the OAU summit had been discussed.

The communique also said the council had decided to send an envoy to Libreville for talks with Gabonese President Omar Bongo in continuation of the dialogue with southern Chad leaders.

The name of the enemy was not specified, but it could be the Council of State commissioner for tourism, Oudalbaye Naham, who accompanied Mr Habre to Gabon earlier this month for surprise talks with Colonel Kamougue, assisted by President Bongo and French President Francois Mitterrand's special adviser on Africa, Guy Penne.

At the end of the meeting both Chadian leaders said they had agreed to work together for peace and unity in the civil war-ravaged country.

RWANDA

COUP PLOTTER'S DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

AB230958 Paris AFP in English 0902 GMT 23 Jul 82

[Text] Kigali, 23 Jul (AFP) -- Rwandan President Juvenal Habyarimana said last night that he had commuted to life imprisonment the death sentences imposed last November on former Security Chief Major Lizinde et Alphonse Kagenza for plotting a coup in April, 1980.

Major General Habyarimana told a Cabinet meeting that 23 other people sentenced at the same time to prison terms ranging from two to 23 years would serve the full period. Common criminals sentenced to death would also be executed as a deterrent, the president added.

He called on the police, legal officials and activists of the sole ruling party, the Revolutionary National Movement for Development, to step up their activities against banditry. "Let the law be imposed in full justice, but firmly. Let those who have ignored our many appeals for peace not expect pardon, and purge in full the penalties which they deserved," the president said.

ANGOLA

ANGOP REPORTS REJECTION OF U.S. PROPOSALS

AB251228 Luanda ANGOP in French 0910 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Luanda, 24 Jul (ANGOP) -- [words indistinct] the questions of Namibia's independence and the presence of the Cuban internationalists on Angolan territory, informed sources from the presidency of the republic announced today.

According to those sources, the Angolan side already has expressed its views on all pending issues submitted to it.

It is thus confirmed that the issue of Namibian independence will continue to be examined within the framework of the consultations between the frontline states, SWAPO and the so-called Western five-nation contact group.

It also was reaffirmed that the question of Namibia's independence and the presence of Cuban troops in Angola are two different issues deserving different approaches.

For that reason, Angola does not accept a simultaneous nor even a parallel withdrawal of the internationalist forces from its territory and the racist troops that have illegally occupied the territory of Namibia.

According to sources contacted by ANGOP, the question of the withdrawal of Cuban forces from Angola can only be examined in the light of the joint declaration signed by the Angolan and Cuban Governments and issued on 4 February this year.

In Sections 9 and 10 of the declaration, it is stated in substance: In view of the hypocritical plan to link the question of Namibia's independence with Cuban withdrawal, the Angolan and Cuban Governments reiterate that the presence of the Cuban troops due to foreign aggression perpetrated by racist and fascist South African troops in close collaboration with the United States is a sovereign and legitimate move by both countries and therefore has no relationship whatsoever with the Namibian problem.

If the courageous struggle of SWAPO, the only legitimate representative of the Namibian people, and the demand of the international community lead to a genuine solution to the Namibian problem on the basis of strict implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 leading to a truly independent government and to the total withdrawal of South Africa's occupation troops far beyond the Orange River, whereby the danger of aggression against Angola would be significantly reduced, the Governments of Angola and Cuba [words indistinct] to find just solutions to the problem of the Cuban presence in Angola with a view to guaranteeing the security and stability of Angola and of the future independent Namibia.

The same sources conclude that Angola does not rule out [words indistinct] warplanes, armored vehicles and troops ready to cross into Angolan territory, Angolan Defense Minister Pedro Maria Tonha declared at a press conference in Luanda this morning. [words indistinct] that province is under permanent threat from racist South Africa's troops.

The Angolan minister observed that last 21 July a group of 11 Mirage fighter jets of South Africa's Air Force bombed the town of Cahama, causing dead and injured among civilians and destroying economic installations. The action took place just when U.S. roving Ambassador Vernon Walters was visiting Luanda, he pointed out.

Pedro Maria Tonha said while South Africa is stepping up its reconnaissance mission over Angola, its infantry forces are carrying out destructive operations against the population in Angolan territory.

The current situation in southern Angola is similar to the one which preceded the invasion in August last year. In view of the concentration of South African troops ready to cross the border into Angola, the Angolan minister believes the racist South African Army is creating conditions for a massive military operation comparable to last year's attack.

He observed: We are concerned about this situation. However, we are ready to face any situation and to defend our territorial integrity and our country's option.

Most of the pilots of the South African planes shot down by Angolan antiaircraft defense were British, Israeli, American and German mercenaries, he concluded.

U.S. Contacts Not Excluded

EA251542 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0700 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Excerpts] During talks between Angolan authorities and U.S. roving ambassador Vernon Walters, the Angolan side reaffirmed that the issue of Namibian independence and Cuban presence in Angola are distinct issues deserving separate treatment. This was reported by ANGOP by sources close to the presidency of the republic.

It was confirmed that the analysis of the problem of the independence of Namibia will continue between the frontline countries, SWAPO and the Western contact group dealing with the issue. Angola reaffirmed that it does not accept the simultaneous or even synchronized withdrawal of Cuban forces from its territory with that of the South African forces that illegally occupy Namibia. It made it clear that the issue of the withdrawal of the Cuban internationalists could only be dealt with in the context of the joint Angolan-Cuban statement issued on 4 February 1982.

If the selfless struggle of SWAPO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Namibian people, and the call by the international community for the true settlement of the Namibian people on the basis of the strict implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 435/78 will bring about a truly independent government in Namibia and the total withdrawal of the South African occupation forces to beyond the Orange River, the Cuban and Angolan Governments will then again analyze the program for the gradual withdrawal of Cuban forces over a period agreed upon by the two governments. We do not reject the idea of finding just solutions to the problem of the Cuban presence in Angola in a manner that would ensure the security and stability of Angola and the future of independent Namibia.

Angola, according to statements to ANGOP by sources close to the presidency, does not exclude the possiblity of resuming bilateral contacts with the United States to discuss problems of mutual interests.

ZIMBABWE

AIRCRAFT DAMAGED IN ATTACK ON AIRBASE 25 JULY

NC251615 Paris AFP in English 1539 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] Harare, July 25 (AFP) -- Several aircraft were damaged in an attack on Thornhill air force base near Gweru in central Zimbabwe early today, a government statement said.

The statement, which confirmed earlier eyewitness reports, did not say who was responsible for the attack but that the airport had been entered. It is believed that Zimbabwe's four new Hawk attack jets, delivered from Britain last week, were stationed at Thornhill.

Reliable sources said the base was rocked by violent explosions. One eyewitness reported having been woken up at around 2 a.m. by the blasts, whose sound was reminiscent of rockets, and seeing flames in the sky. Access to the base, four kms (about two miles) from the town of Gweru, is forbidden.

The attack on the base lasted about 40 minutes, severely damaging 11 planes, according to unconfirmed reports.

Thornhill is Zimbabwe's main air force base, where fighter and training squadrons are stationed.

The attack caused a major loss to Zimbabwe's small air force, according to unofficial military sources. The planes said to be heavily damaged include the four Hawks, worth an estimated 20 million pounds sterling (about 35 million U.S. dollars, six British-made Hawker Hunter jets and one Lynx aircraft.

The government statement said that an inquiry would be conducted by both the air force and the police. Government and military officials refused to elaborate on the attacks or say who might be responsible.

Last month another armed forces base, Grand Reef near the eastern border town of Mutare, was attacked by renegade guerrillas. A group of about 15 armed men overran the base, robbing its armoury. That incident was blamed on former guerrillas loyal to Joshua Nkomo who have been held responsible for a series of armed robberies, shootings and acts of banditry in the country since Mr Nkomo was sacked from government in February.

Statement on 'Sabotage' Issued

CA261122 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 25 Jul 82

[Text] In Harare, the minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for defense, Comrade Sekeramayi, has issued a statement. The statement reads:

In the early hours of Sunday 25th July, 1982, entrance was gained into the security area of air force station Thornhill, Gweru, where a number of aircraft were damaged due to sabotage. An Air Force of Zimbabwe board of inquiry with the assistance of the Zimbabwe republic police is being conducted. That is the end of the statement.

TOURISTS ABDUCTED BY 'DISSIDENTS' 23 JULY

CA261144 Harare Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 24 Jul 82

[Text] Ten tourists were abducted by dissidents in southwestern Matabeleland yesterday while on their way from Victoria Falls. A government spokesman said today that four of the tourists, including the leader of the group, Mr. (Bruce Watkins), from New Zealand, were later released by the abductors. A spokesman said the tourists were abducted when they reached a point where trees had been thrown into the road to form a barricade. Mr (Watkins) was given a letter by the armed men and ordered to hand it to police in Bulawayo. The names of the three tourists released together with Mr (Watkins) are (Peira Nelatrinth), a Dutch national; (Gabriel Pelag), who is Austrian; and (Caroline Galvanter), an Australian. Those still being held are James Greenwell, Martin Hodgson and William Butler, all British [as heard] (Bret Baldwin) and (Kevin Ellis), both American; and an Australian, Tony Bajzelj. Meanwhile, security forces have set up a command post in the area to conduct a search for the missing tourists.